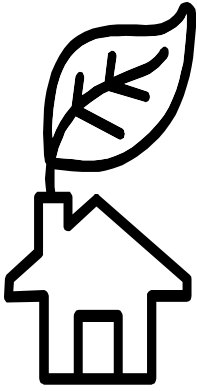


Home



I will break the bottled water habit by using a reusable water bottle instead of buying bottled water.

Making bottles to meet America's demand for bottled water requires more than 1.5 million barrels of oil annually, enough to fuel some 100,000 cars per year.

I will use reusable bags rather than plastic grocery bags.

It takes more than 20 million barrels of oil to produce the 100 billion plastic bags we use per year.

I will use compact fluorescent bulbs in my home

If you replace 3 high-use light bulbs with fluorescent bulbs you could save up to \$60 and 300lbs of carbon dioxide emissions per year.

I will keep car tires optimally inflated.

This could save 250 lbs of carbon dioxide per year.

I will buy locally grown food when possible.

Most American food moves over 1,500 miles from where it was grown to our tables.

I will recycle glass, aluminum, plastic, and paper

By making products from recycled materials instead of virgin materials, we conserve land and reduce the need to drill for oil and dig for minerals.

Church



Our congregation will plant trees to improve the green cover.

Green cover is one of the most effective carbon sinks and critical for preserving the ecological balance.

Our congregation will use compact fluorescent lights.

Save up to 75% energy use and bulbs last 10x longer

Our congregation will explore green lawn care.

The average suburban lawn receives 10 times as much chemical pesticides per acre as farmland.

Our congregation will recycle glass, paper, plastic, and aluminum and will not use styrofoam coffee cups.

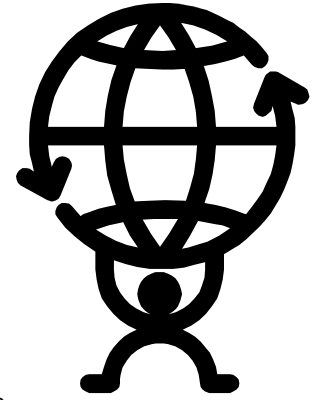
Those styrofoam coffee cups can take about 500 years to break down in the landfill. Make reusable mugs available.

Our congregation will establish a green sanctuary committee .

God's message to us at the time of creation was that we are to "till and tend the garden" (Genesis 2:15). Our commitment to environmental justice will be reflected in resources we put into solutions. A committee can evaluate individual church and community strengths and needs and formulate an action plan.

Community

Celebrate Earth Day in our community on April 22, 2009.



Consider working with the larger faith community to sponsor a video series or recycling event, or to kick off your own congregation's "Green Challenge".

Write an op-ed piece to the local paper about green efforts we've accomplished or on why going green is important.

www.dukenews.duke.edu./duke_community/op-ed has great op-ed writing tips

Seek earth justice by promoting fair trade and organically grown products.

Consider hosting a fair trade gift sale at Christmas.

The green committee at my church will propose a green challenge to other churches in our community.

We will support a local food cooperative.

www.wichitafood.coop or

www.woopdirectory.org in Kansas

www.oklahomafood.coop in Oklahoma

“Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.”

1 John 3.18

Over the past 10 years, the Kansas Oklahoma Conference of the UCC has developed a relationship with the Madhya Kerala Diocese in India. Building on this relationship, the partnership is now poised to do positive work together to mutually encourage and strengthen one another in our witness to the gospel.

The Planet Earth and Church of South India Committees of the KO Conference are working in partnership with the Madhya Kerala Diocese to challenge members to address issues of climate change and environmental justice.

The Planet Earth Committee invites you to take the green challenge.

Review the ideas presented here. Determine and **create** steps you can take in your home, church and community.

“We believe that regular people in regular lives can together change the world for the better through small, easily manageable acts of pro-action.” Penny Selbee, Chair of Planet Earth Committee and member of First Congregational Church, Topeka, KS.

Useful resources

WEBSITES

www.coopamerica.org
www.earthday.net
www.envirolink.org
www.worldwatch.org
www.epa.gov
www.edf.org
www.nrdc.org
www.nwf.org
www.wwf.org
www.ucc.org/earthcare/

BOOKS

50 Simple Things you Can Do To Save the Earth, John Javna, 2008

The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight, Thom Hartmann, 1998

One Makes the Difference: Inspiring Actions that Change our World, Julia Butterfly Hill, 2001

VIDEOS

Troubled Waters, Produced by the UCC J&W Ministries, 2006. Includes Discussion Guide.

An Inconvenient Truth, 2006. Study guide available at www.aninconvenienttruth.com

For more information, contact:
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405 213-3282
www.uccjustice.org

K-O & Kerala Going Green Together

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
Kansas Oklahoma Conference



**Will you take the
Green Challenge?**

Church of South India



THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE



A PDF file of this brochure is available
at www.uccjustice.org