

Suggested Activities

Pray and Inspire

- ❖ Prayerfully develop vision and mission statements for earth care ministry.
- ❖ Include earth-centered prayers in each Sunday service.
- ❖ Conduct Advent through Epiphany services that honor the mineral, plant, animal, and human kingdoms.
- ❖ Celebrate the turning of the seasons. A sacred table can be adorned to reflect the season and its spiritual gift.
- ❖ Give services outdoors.
- ❖ Give an Earth Day service, dedicate the month of April to the elements.
- ❖ Fly prayer flags from the church building.
- ❖ Develop a seven-week series on an inspirational book on caring for the earth.
- ❖ Hold a ceremony on a new church property for “coming to the land.”
- ❖ Visit a sacred site near your church.

Learn and Share

- ❖ Include gardening and other earth care activities in youth ministry programs.
- ❖ Learn about energy rebate opportunities in your state. Unity churches in the Portland area learned about energy audits, energy rebates, and PGE energy saving options available in Oregon.
- ❖ Learn about local or regional issues. Unity of North Idaho learned about noxious weed control and concerns with the Rathdrum aquifer, their regional water supply.
- ❖ Invite local experts to give demonstrations. Examples include a hybrid electric/gasoline car, composting, and landscaping with native plants.
- ❖ Invite a guest speaker for a class or Sunday service on earth care topics.
- ❖ Sponsor an alternative energy fair with information on public utilities, “green building”, and energy efficiencies.
- ❖ Publish “Green Tips” in the church newsletter, or create a Green Tips booklet for congregants.
- ❖ Contact an interfaith group, such as the Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns in Portland or Earth Ministry in Seattle, for workshops and events to connect with others.

Care for the Earth

- ❖ Conduct an Energy Audit. Oregon offers 3 energy rebates: PGE electricity offers 28-30% to redo lighting; an energy pass-through tax credit to non-profits; and a carbon credit.
- ❖ Start an Energy Pledge program. This program is sponsored by the Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns.
- ❖ Focus on renewable energy. In Oregon, for every household that signs up, a \$10 donation is given to the church.
- ❖ In Oregon, voluntarily select “clean energy” from Green Mountain Energy from California—85% geothermal, 15% wind. It costs a little more.
- ❖ Use florescent lighting, zoned programmable thermostats and room heaters.
- ❖ Control noxious weeds on church property.
- ❖ Use mulch on church landscaping to save water.
- ❖ Use “real” cups and utensils for hospitality.
- ❖ Compost coffee grounds and yard waste.
- ❖ Have a “Green Christmas”—buy a live Christmas tree and plant it, recycle a cut tree, or use an artificial tree; recycle wrapping paper; give a class instead of “stuff,” etc.
- ❖ Recycling: have a recycling hotline, a collection box for recycled materials, hold rummage sales, donate the recycling proceeds to a local charity.
- ❖ Adopt a local beach, cemetery, highway, or trail to pick up trash.
- ❖ Plant trees on and off church property.
- ❖ Maintain a church garden plot.