

Ten Ways

TO CARE FOR CREATION



1 START AN INTERGENERATIONAL GARDENING PROJECT

Create a church garden or green space and tend it with the help of church members of all ages. Consider enlisting those in your church who are familiar with gardening to manage the project. The garden could be used to grow fruits and vegetables for church or community members, or could simply be a place to plant native flowers and vegetation.

2 BE A CLIMATE WITNESS PARTNER

Become a part of the Climate Witness Project (crcna.org/cwp). Through this project groups of people are helping their congregations engage in creation care around three core areas: prayer and worship, learning more, and advocacy.

3 HOST AN ADULT EDUCATION SERIES ON CREATION CARE

Hosting an education series is a great way to get the conversation started on creation care. The Climate Witness Project has a number of resources for you to use. From the short video series *Climate Conversation: Kenya* to the *For the Love Of* documentary and study guide, the Climate Witness Project's education webpage has the tools you need to get started!

4 HOST A FILM OR FILM SERIES ON THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Partner with area congregations to rent out a theatre or host the event at your church. Popular films on this topic include *For the Love of*, *Climate Conversation: Kenya*, *Before the Flood*, and *From the Ashes*. Invite panelists who are impacted or who have expertise to continue the conversation after the film.

5 PRAY FOR COMMUNITIES THAT ARE IMPACTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

Highlight stories in worship and pray for affected communities. World Renew has ideas you can use to give support through a special offering (worldrenew.net/creationcare). Maybe one of your missionaries could share in worship or World Renew could help connect you with a field staff person who can speak in your worship service.

6 ADVOCATE

Sign up for advocacy action alerts (justice.crcna.org/advocacy) or help interested members of your congregation to sign up. You can learn more about the church and advocacy with a study of this advocacy guide. OSJ staff can also assist you with setting up legislative meetings. Learn more at justice.crcna.org/advocacy.

7 FORM AN INTERGENERATIONAL CREATION CARE TEAM

Creation care teams help their churches creatively engage in creation care activities. Teams might adopt a trail, regularly share ways to reduce energy and water usage at church and at home, transition coffee hour from styrofoam to reusable cups, volunteer at or host a tree planting, and even help plan a creation care oriented education series.

8 CREATION CARE STORYTELLING SERIES

Hold a creation care storytelling series. This could happen in worship over the course of many weeks. It could happen over a large group meal or breakfast or it could happen through a series of house parties. The focus is for participants to share stories about why caring for creation is important to them. You could also deepen the experience by inviting outside speakers with a special interest in this topic to share alongside the rest of the group.

9 SAVE ENERGY

Congregations across the U.S. and Canada are already leading by example (and saving thousands of dollars) by stewarding their energy usage. Schedule an energy audit for your church building to discover areas that need improvement (some utility providers offer these for free.) Henry Brower wrote a practical handbook for how to save energy in your church building. Learn more at justice.crcna.org/energy-stewardship. Local electricians and utility providers may also be able to provide tips on grants and rebates. A few CRC churches have even been able to achieve an ENERGY STAR endorsement for their facilities.

10 PROMOTE INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING

Check out World Renew's small group study *Live Justly*. It has short readings and can be utilized by adults, young adults, high school, middle school, or a mix of all four groups. You will especially want to look at lesson 6 on consumption and lesson 9 on creation care. Find out how to get the books and watch the free videos at worldrenew.net/livejustly.

This resource has been developed by the Office of Social Justice in partnership with Faith Formation Ministries.

The Office of Social Justice helps CRC members love our neighbors in tangible ways. We provide resources to learn about the root causes of poverty, hunger, and oppression, and we empower the church to call on those in power to improve systems and enact just public policy.

Faith Formation Ministries encourages and equips local CRC ministry leaders in their calling to shape intentional, lifelong faith formation in their context. The Faith Formation Ministries team and our regional catalyzers are available to consult with your congregation on any faith formation matter.

OSJ

 Office of Social Justice

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