

BECOMING A GREEN JUSTICE CONGREGATION

WORSHIP AND EDUCATION	POINTS	TOTAL
Preach an environmental stewardship sermon	1*	
Hold an annual "Earth Day" Sunday with appropriate liturgy and hymns	2	
Conduct a six-week or Lenten Bible study, book study, or small group study on stewardship of creation	4	
Show an environmental justice film	1*	
Invite speakers on environmental justice to special church events	1*	
Have your "Green Justice Team" or others take a "toxic tour" and report back to your congregation what you learned	2	
Measure the carbon footprint of the church facility and staff and pledge to reduce it by 10% per year	3	
Set up a program to measure the carbon footprint of each family in the congregation	5	
Send a member of your congregation to a UCC Center for Environmental Justice workshop or a Justice Leaders Engaging and Developing (LED) training	3*	

COORDINATION & COMMUNICATION	POINTS	TOTAL
Form an on-going church "Green Justice Team"	5	
Include a "Green Justice" column in your church newsletter	2	
Shift church communications from paper to electronic media – as much as possible	1	
Sign up at least 50% of your congregational households to the Justice & Peace Action Network (JPANet)	3	

EQUIPMENT	POINTS	TOTAL
Put office machines on power strips and unplug rarely used appliances	1	
Replace old heating/air conditioning units with energy efficient models	5*	
Buy "energy star" appliances	1*	
Install water saver or dual-flush toilets throughout the facility	1*	
Install tankless or solar water heater(s)	4	
Install ceiling fans in rooms for circulation and reset thermostat	2	

STEWARDSHIP	POINTS	TOTAL
Assist members in reducing "junk" mail	1	
Recycle paper/bottles/cans	2	
Shift to reusable dishes/utensils in church kitchens and rooms	2	
Shift to environmentally sensitive cleaning products	1	
Review church investments for environmental justice impact	3	
Shift to "fair trade" and environmentally friendly items for regular consumption	2	
Shift to locally grown food as much as possible for church events	1	

ENERGY USE	POINTS	TOTAL
Conduct a professional energy audit of the church facility	5	
Clean radiators/heating ducts/refrigerator coils regularly	1	
Turn off computers and other appliances overnight or when not in use	1	
Install and use programmable thermostats	3	
Replace incandescent bulbs with CFL's	2	
Insulate/weather-strip church pipes/walls/ceilings/doors/water heaters/wall outlets	2	

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Install energy efficient fluorescent lights/ballasts	2	
Use blinds to help regulate temperature	1	
Purchase “clean” or “green power” for the church	1	
Replace old windows with energy-efficient windows	1	
Replace old doors with energy-efficient doors or install storm doors	1	
Install solar panels for electricity generation	5	

TRANSPORTATION	POINTS	TOTAL
Institute “Walk/bike/carpool to church” days	1	
Develop a car pool system for church activities	2	
Install bike racks at your church	3	
Intentionally carpool to local, regional, or state church events or meetings	2	

NATURAL SURROUNDINGS	POINTS	TOTAL
Shift to organic lawn/landscape care	4	
Establish a community garden at the church	5	
Build a rainwater garden or landscape	5	
Utilize xeriscaping for lawns/landscaping	4	
Plant deciduous trees on South and West sides of church buildings	3	

ADVOCACY	POINTS	TOTAL
As a congregation, join your state’s Interfaith Power and Light organization	4	
Hold a letter-writing campaign to elected officials at local, state, or national levels to tell them that environmental justice should be reflected in public policy decisions	1*	
Visit your elected officials at the local, State, or national levels to tell them that environmental justice should be reflected in public policy decisions	1*	
Join with other congregations to pool resources and energy for community efforts towards environmental justice	3	
Hold an educational/advocacy event about such groups as 350.org or Transition Towns	2	
TOTAL POINTS		

*** Points are given per event, item, or action**

Notes:

1. Other events, items, or actions can earn points. We encourage creativity and actions customized for your setting. Write a brief description and estimate the points based on comparison with other criteria.
2. Points begin accumulating each Easter Sunday morning for one entire year. Reports from each congregation are encouraged at every Conference meeting in the spring or early summer.
3. Count points every year for actions you have taken to change facilities or energy use. For example, if you shift to organic lawn care, you may count those points every year as long as you continue the action.