

eco- congregation



an environmental toolkit for churches

Module 10

green choices

*information and suggestions to green personal
lifestyles*

*Eco-congregation Canada is a project of
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Lifestyle or style for life

Introduction

The 1990s years witnessed an explosion of interest in lifestyle issues that continues today. Make-over and consumer programmes have blossomed on television, giving advice on every aspect of personal lifestyle from cooking, health and personal finance to changing rooms and gardens. Together with the flourishing lifestyle magazine market, the message broadcast is that living is about the three 'c's: choosing, changing and consuming.

Against this consumer-orientated approach there is a pressing need for the people in the richer nations to change their lifestyle. Current consumption is:

1. **unsustainable**, because there is a limit to the resources available on earth and the earth's capacity to absorb our waste products
2. **devastating our environment**. Scientists are virtually unanimous in this view. For example, The Global Environment Outlook 2002 (GEO 3) report, published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) gives an overview of the state of the planet, highlighting the problems caused by the wasteful and invasive consumer society, coupled with continuing population growth, which are threatening to destroy the resources on which human life is based.
3. **out of balance**, because only a small proportion of the world's current population consume a large proportion of the resources and generate a large proportion of the pollution. It is estimated that, if everyone in the world lived the lifestyle of the average European, we would need three earths to support us all.

A Christian ecological lifestyle

Individuals can make many positive lifestyle choices to care for the environment. One buzz phrase that is sometimes used is to 'live more simply so that others may simply live'. Jesus gave a profound understanding to simple lifestyles. When preaching the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said that you cannot worship both God and money (Matthew 6:24) and called people not to store up riches on earth but in heaven, for our heart will be where our riches are (Matthew 6:19-21).

The following passage is part of the sermon preached at the service to dedicate Eco-Congregation to God at St Paul's Cathedral by the Rt. Rev'd and Rt. Hon. Richard Chartres, the Bishop of London, whilst drawing on Matthew 6:24-30:

"Jesus Christ is meditating on anxiety and faith. Anxiety and competition inevitably flow from a picture of the self as fulfilled by being an individual consumer of goods and having access to a range of commodities. That is how the self is encouraged to see itself by the propaganda which surrounds us and stimulates our cravings... By contrast our soul is not something which just exists and whose appetites demand to be satisfied. The soul is formed in relationship with others. The soul develops to the extent that we are related to God the Beyond All and to his Creation..."

Our profoundest motivation comes not from fear but from the gospel that we can only express and explore together. Be not anxious for yourself what to consume or what commodity to have next, rather pay attention to your soul which forms as we relate to God and neighbour and which comes as a gift from Jesus Christ who has brought us home to God."

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Green choices are not simply about living today that others may have life tomorrow, but more profoundly that true life is found when we seek a fulfilling relationship with God rather than seeking fulfilment through material possessions.

This Green Choices module helps individuals to think about their personal lifestyle and to make choices that reflect a care for the earth and respect for their neighbours around the world. Some of these choices will save money too!

Callander Kirk used the ideas in this module in a series of “green tips” in their church magazine, to help their congregation practice sustainable living at home. Their local community paper now publishes those same tips as well.

How green is my life? – Calculating your environmental footprint

Every household uses energy and water, consumes goods and services and creates waste – but some lifestyles and households have a bigger impact on the environment than others! Several organisations have devised simple ways to estimate your ‘environmental footprint’, i.e. the amount of space you take up on the planet.

Redefining Progress has a very simple footprint calculator on their website at www.myfootprint.org. It is easy-to-use, prompting you to input basic information about their lifestyle including travel, shopping and garbage generated. The programme then calculates how many planets we would need if everyone lived like you! For a more detailed analysis try the earthday network’s version at www.earthday.net/footprint/index.asp. If you are working with kids go to Bobbie Bigfoot - <http://www.kidsfootprint.org/>. This website has lesson plans, an online quiz for kids, and more for teachers wanting to help their students understand the impact our lifestyles have on the planet cosponsored by Redefining Progress and the Earth Day Network.

Redefining Progress 1904 Franklin St, Suite 600, Oakland, CA 94612 Phone: (510) 444-3041 Fax: (510) 444-3191 Email: info@rprogress.org Website: www.rprogress.org

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Greening the **home**

The home is a place where people can make positive changes for the environment in a number of key areas. This Greening the home section deals with heating and lighting, water and waste and includes suggestions for lowering a household's impact on the environment. The tips are designed to lower peoples' impact on the environment and in many cases can lead to lower household bills too!

Heating, Lighting and Electrical Goods


Heating and lighting contribute to the comfort of homes but wasting energy damages the environment and costs money. According to Natural Resources Canada "Energy development and use accounts for over 80% of greenhouse gas emissions in Canada as well as smog pollutants" Carbon dioxide emissions are a major factor leading to global warming which is causing climate change. The effects of climate change are already starting to be visible and are likely to get worse. They include rising sea-levels, an increase in storms and flooding in some places and drought in others and changes in the distribution of some disease-bearing organisms. People in Canada contribute as much as 50 times more to climate change than those in the poorest countries, but it is the poor who will feel its worst effects. It is estimated that, by 2050, rising sea levels, severe weather and crop failures could create 150 million refugees.

By undertaking energy saving and efficiency measures the average household's energy bill can be reduced significantly each year and help to reduce carbon dioxide emissions too.

Natural Resources Canada has a long list of action tips to save energy and prevent pollution on their website. Here are some of them:

- The cost of improving the airtightness of your home through caulking is low compared with the subsequent fuel savings and increased comfort.
- One 100-watt incandescent bulb produces the same amount of light as two 60-watt bulbs and uses less energy.
- Installing a water-saver flush kit in your toilet can save you thousands of litres of water per year.
- Dripping taps can waste 9000 litres of hot water each year. Replace leaky washers and save the hot water for when you really need it!
- Deciduous trees lower your energy bill all year, providing shade in summer and sunshine in winter.
- Weatherstripping prevents air from leaking through gaps around doors and the moving parts of an operable window.
- Today's energy-efficient refrigerators use 50 percent less energy than models made 10 years ago.
- Front-loading clothes washers use about 40 percent less water per load and 50 percent less energy than top-loading models.

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- You will get the most out of your clothes dryer if you clean the filter before every load.
- Chest freezers are more energy efficient than upright models. Cold air stays in better when the door is opened.
- Today's dishwashers are about 95 percent more energy efficient than those bought in 1972: your old one may be costing you more money than buying a new one.
- Turning on the interior light to check your dinner instead of opening the door makes the best use of your oven's energy.
- You can buy years of energy savings by choosing appliances that carry the [ENERGY STAR®](#)  symbol.
- Heat recovery ventilators (HRVs) improve indoor air quality by expelling stale indoor air continuously and using its heat to pre-heat the incoming fresh air.
- Fireplaces: Air leaks are common at the joint between the chimney and the wall. To seal them, remove the trim (if necessary) and apply heat-resistant caulking.
- By installing a programmable thermostat, you can save 2 percent on your heating bill for every 1°C (2°F) you lower the thermostat.
- Setting the thermostat of your room air conditioner at 25°C (77°F) provides the most comfort for the least cost.
- Switching to a high-efficiency water heater could save you up to \$100 on your energy bill every year.
- A bathroom fan with an automatic humidity sensor runs the fan just long enough to remove excess moisture and then turns itself off to save electricity.
- You can save up to 50 percent of your cooking energy costs by using a microwave oven instead of a conventional oven.
- Kettles heat water more efficiently than a range-top element or a microwave oven. Choose one with an automatic shut-off button and a heat-resistant handle.
- A toaster oven uses much less energy than a conventional oven. It is also faster and more convenient for cooking small quantities of food.
- An electric frying pan requires less electricity than a range top to cook the same quantity of food.
- Gas barbecues save energy during hot weather, when indoor cooking can heat up your home and increase air-conditioning needs.
- Paint that is low in volatile organic compounds (VOCs) contains fewer solvents than regular paint, so fewer environmental pollutants are emitted into the air.
- Sump pumps prevent moisture problems by channeling excess water away from your home to a sanitary main or storm water pipe.

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- Running a dehumidifier in the basement on muggy summer days reduces condensation on foundation walls and floors.
- Determining the humidity level in your home with a hygrometer can help you decide whether you need to act to prevent moisture damage.
- Photocell timers react to sunlight. They turn outdoor lights off during the day and on at night and help extend bulb life.
- Programmable timers with an automatic on-off switch help extend product life and minimize energy use.
- Outdoor lights with motion sensors operate only when they detect movement, providing home security as well as energy savings.
- Aluminum tape wrapped around joints in heating and cooling ducts can help reduce costly air leakage.
- When working properly, eavestroughs help guide rain water away from the foundation of your house and prevent moisture problems.
- For good cross-ventilation, install attic vents at the eaves and peak of your roof.
- A central vacuum cleaner expels air and fine particles outside the home, contributing to better, healthier air quality inside.
- Choosing the right pot size for a stove element means using energy most efficiently.
- Extending cooking times with a slow cooker not only lets flavours mingle better, but also reduces energy use and chances of scorching.

For the full list see: <http://www.oeenrcan.gc.ca/residential/personal/new-home-improvement/home-energy-saving-tips.cfm> .

KAIROS Canada is also in partnership with Natural Resources Canada and has lots of information for producing energy efficient church buildings. See www.kairoscanada.org under the ecology section for more ideas.

Some utility companies have subsidised energy saving schemes and products – check your local supply company for current offers. Additional grants are sometimes available to install energy saving measures for those in receipt of certain benefits.

For information on energy saving measures, grants and incentives for homeowners, businesses and organizations contact:

Natural Resources Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency, 1-800-387-2000, 580 Booth St. 18th floor, Natural Resources Canada, Ottawa ON K1A 0E4, www.oeenrcan.gc.ca

For more specific information on making your church building energy efficient contact: **KAIROS Canada** at 129 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, ON, M4V 1N5 (416) 463-5312, info@kairoscanada.org, www.kairoscanada.org

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When **Holy Trinity Church** got involved in Eco-Congregation they decided to develop two strands of activity: one for the church as an organisation and the other for individuals. For individuals they are using the *New Internationalist's* 20-point programme “to help you kick your global-warming, energy-guzzling habit”! A humorous and easy to follow poster shows how to embrace more environmentally responsible lifestyle habits, providing a practical road map for individuals and families. They challenged the congregation to audit their current habits and set themselves a goal for the coming 6 months. Afterwards they will check performances and calculate what contribution to reducing global warming the church has collectively made. Chris Harris.

The poster mentioned - “Slobbie Ozzie Does Detox” - can be bought from the New Internationalist's online shop on their website www.newint.org or an A4 version can be downloaded for free on their webpage www.newint.org/issue357/contents.htm

Renewable or ‘Green’ Electricity

Did you know that you can choose to use renewable or ‘green’ electricity for your household needs? Renewables energy doesn't involve burning oil, coal or gas and doesn't produce the ‘greenhouse gases’ that contribute to climate change. Instead it comes from harnessing the energy in water, wind, waves, the sun etc.

Most of us are connected to the National Grid, so we can't choose where the electricity that enters our home comes from. When you buy green electricity, what happens is that you commit your supplier to purchasing at least the amount of electricity that you use from a renewable source. The more people who sign up, the more electricity the supplier will have to purchase from a green generator.

As with any product, there are a number of options, and some are more environmentally-friendly than others. Eco-Congregation cannot endorse a particular supplier however Pollution Probe has produced a “A Consumer Guide to Green Power in Canada” that will help (see: <http://www.pollutionprobe.org/whatwedo/greenpower/consumerguide/index.htm>)

Water

The Bible includes stories that illustrate the significance of water:

- † in the story of creation (Genesis 1) and the story of Jesus in the storm-tossed boat on Galilee (Luke 8:22-25), water is portrayed as having a chaotic elemental character, which only God can subdue
- † in the story of Noah and the flood (Genesis 7-9) and the story of John the Baptist (Mark 1:4-5), water is portrayed as a medium into which old life dies and new life rises
- † in the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman by the well (John 4:1-15), the refreshment that water offers to a weary traveller is used to symbolise the refreshment that Jesus offers to tired souls

The elemental quality of water reminds us that we can never absolutely control creation, the cleansing quality of water symbolises the new life offered through Christ

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and the drinking of water reminds us that life cannot exist without both physical and spiritual refreshment.

How much water do Canadians use?

Kairos' website on water says that "Urban users in Canada use more than twice as much water as their European counterparts with significant levels of wastage and inefficiency."

According to Natural Resources Canada in 2004 we used 329 litres of water per person per day. Based on 2006 population data from Stats Canada (over 31 million) that means we used 10.4 billion litres per day!!! (That's almost 4 trillion litres per year). All of that water had to be cleaned, processed and then went back into the ecosystem with varying levels of pollutants. Here's the breakdown for how we use water:

- Showers and Baths 35%
- Toilet Flushing 30%
- Laundry 20%
- Kitchen and Drinking 10%
- Cleaning 5%

Action Points to save water

- ✧ Fix leaking taps – one dripping at one drop per second will waste 1200 l per year!
- ✧ Turn off taps fully
- ✧ Water plants in the evening after the heat of the day (reduces evaporation)
- ✧ Have a shower rather than a bath
- ✧ Use a plug in bathtubs and sinks rather than washing under a running tap
- ✧ Fit a water hippo in your toilet cistern to save 1 litre per flush (a 1 litre milk jug filled with water works well)
- ✧ Turn of the tap while cleaning your teeth, or use a glass of water instead
- ✧ Install an eves trough, linking it to a down pipe to collect water from a roof
- ✧ Mulch water-loving plants in the garden to save on the need for watering
- ✧ If you use a washing machine or dishwasher, reduce the frequency of running it by always having a full load

For more information about water saving, contact your local water supply company.

Action points to reduce pollution

- Minimise your use of phosphate based detergents and bleach (try eco-friendly washing-up liquid, washing powder and cleaners instead)
- Minimise your use of toxic substances such as pesticides and creosote, which might get washed into the drainage system or water system
- Safely dispose of waste oils, paints, solvents and batteries at a collection point rather than pouring them down a drain. Some charities can use left-over paint and some batteries can be recycled.
- Use mains electricity rather than batteries when possible, and choose re-chargeable batteries if you need them.

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For more information about the safe disposal of hazardous waste, contact your local authority waste officer.

Waste

Every year Canadian households throw away 31 million tonnes of waste - that's 2.7 kg's per person per day! Most of it goes to landfill and some of it is incinerated.

The average garbage can in Toronto contains approximately:

- 23% Paper
- 15% Plastic
- 3% Glass
- 2% Metals
- 42% Compostable organic material
- 15% Other (electronics, furniture, textiles etc.)

About 80% of this household waste could be composted or recycled. If this was undertaken it would save natural resources and reduce the problem of the disposal of waste. However, recycling is not the whole answer. People need to learn to use natural resources more sparingly and sensibly. Householders can make a significant contribution to minimising their waste by a number of simple ways.

Paper

The production of 'virgin' paper requires logging of trees and the use of vast quantities of water and various chemicals, some of which are harmful if released in the environment, in paper production. By adopting the following measures these processes can be reduced:

- save waste paper and deposit it in a local recycle depot
- reuse envelopes, paper, wrappings and egg cartons
- choose to buy recycled paper products, including greetings cards
- reduce the amount of junk mail that you receive by joining the redden campaign – put a No Admail or No Junkmail sticker on your mailbox, ask your post office to flag your postal box with a No Junkmail sticker and sign up for the Canadian National Marketing Do Not Contact Service at <http://www.the-cma.org/>

Reddot campaign
www.reddotcampaign.ca

Canadian National Marketing
www.the-cma.org

Most local authorities have a Waste Management Office or Recycling Officer who can provide advice on waste.

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Waste Reduction Week

Each year Canadians celebrate Waste Reduction Week shortly after Thanksgiving. There are excellent resources to help your community, school or business reduce waste and get the message out.

Contact: Waste Reduction Week Canada www.wrwcanda.com to register and find the contact in your province.

Glass

Glass is one of the most benign products in the landfill and therefore one of the most environmentally friendly products even if it does have to get thrown away. But don't go tossing it just yet - glass manufacturing requires raw materials and energy to extract, transport and manufacture the product. Making glass from recycled materials cuts related air pollution 20% and water pollution 50% (Waste Reduction Week website). To minimise the use of raw materials, energy and the amount of waste generated:

- choose returnable bottles if available
- recycle glass through blue box collections or at most local landfills

Plastic

Canada produces a growing mountain of plastic waste, much of which does not readily biodegrade. If you think about it every bit of plastic that has ever been created is still somewhere in the world in a landfill or elsewhere. The Canadian Plastics Industry has information on how plastics are recycled and more at www.plastics.ca. In British Columbia Encorp Pacific runs the Return-It Depots for drink bottles as well as a new electronics recycling program.

Contact: Encorp Pacific (Canada) - Head Office, 206 - 2250 Boundary Rd., Burnaby, BC V5M 3Z3, 1-800-330-9767, or (604) 473-2400 Fax: (604) 473-2411
Email: encorp@encorpinc.com

Techno-trash

High-tech equipment such as computers and cell phones are transforming the way that people conduct their lives, but the rapid obsolescence of the equipment means that there is a burgeoning high-tech waste mountain. A number of charities or organisations are pleased to receive unwanted computer equipment for reuse or recycling. Additionally, unwanted cell phones, toner & ink cartridges can be given to a variety of charities who forward them to a recycling program and thereby raise money for their work. Your Local Authority might have details of local programs.

Susan Ward suggests five things you can do to help with techno trash in her article *Where to Recycle Computers in Canada* at

<http://sbinfocanada.about.com/od/environmentbiz/a/comprecycling1.htm> :

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1. Check with the manufacturer of your computer or electronic device to see what recycling programs the company offers.
2. Find out what provincial and/or municipal electronics recycling programs are available in your area.
3. Become part of Industry Canada's [Computers for Schools](#) program.
4. Donate your used computer or electronic equipment to a charity or no-profit organization.
5. Watch for electronic cleanup events.

See the article for details and lots of contact info for places across Canada.

Electronics-Recycling Canada, A Global network of E-Waste Recycling. #120-13065
84th Avenue, Surrey, B.C., (604) 582-8087, info@electronics-recycling.com.

Metal

Metal is a valuable resource that can readily be reused, so recycling saves the mining of natural resources, energy used in mineral processing and land-fill costs. Natural Resources Canada estimates that “Canadian households discard 116 000-232 000 tonnes of metal scrap per year...for every tonne of aluminium recycled, the green house gas emission reductions are 6 tonnes of eCO₂” (<http://www.recycle.nrcan.gc.ca/factsheets.htm>)

To recycle metal:

- use local can depots or curbside collections if available
- support collections of foil, milk bottle tops etc
- use aluminium can depots – many local charities/organisations collect cans to raise funds
- take or arrange for unwanted appliances or other bulky metal items to be deposited at a local authority metal collection/recycling site

There are hundreds of bottle depots nationwide where you can exchange your aluminium cans for cash. For information about your nearest bottle depot contact the waste management department of your local municipal government.

Clothes and cloth

A large tonnage of clothing and cloth is disposed of each year. Consider undertaking the following actions to reduce this waste:

- take clean clothes to thrift stores and clothing banks
- garage sales are another place to recycle material
- clothing and cloth which cannot be sold can be recycled into industrial wipes, blankets and stuffing for furniture
- only buy clothes that you really need and consider buying clothes second hand

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Organic Waste

Approximately 40% of domestic waste is organic matter. Disposing of this in landfill takes up valuable space and the organic matter can break down into a leachate which, when combined with other waste, may pollute the water course. Additionally, decomposing organic matter can produce methane which is a greenhouse gas and potentially hazardous. Composting organic matter in gardens can reduce these large scale hazards and produce compost which improves soil fertility – see ‘greening your garden’ section on page 9.

- if you have a suitable space outside, consider installing a compost bin and use it for all organic matter (though avoid composting meat and fish as these can attract vermin)
- bread can be fed to birds at a feeding station

For more information about recycling points contact your local authority. Some local authorities have free or reduced-price compost bin programs and other have collection programs for green waste.

Saffron Walden Methodist Church encouraged members of the congregation to use the local authority’s doorstep recycling collection scheme and recycling centre. However, there are many things which aren’t covered by these services, so they set about finding outlets, local where possible, for as many of these as they could and set up a collection point at the rear of their church under their Eco-Congregation Notice Board. Items collected include: spectacles, paper, used stamps, ink cartridges, aluminium foil, mobile phones, old tights, good clothes, sewing needles, cotton, buttons, zips, knitting needles and wool and even computers, which would have otherwise gone to landfill. One member of the ‘Green Team’ is responsible for the distribution to the various charities and outlets. Mrs Rosina Down.

At a ‘Churches Environment Day’ organised by the United Reformed Church in the North West, a collection was held at lunchtime. Instead of passing a plate for money a sack was passed around for offerings of waste from packed lunches. Equipped with a bag full of foil, plastic wrappings and other assorted ‘goodies’ a group created a montage of the Garden of Eden – complete with an apple core on the ground symbolising the fall! The group entitled their picture ‘Redeeming the waste’ and offered it in the closing worship as a symbol of creating a new heaven and a new earth.

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Laundry

Washing clothing, like other essential activities, entails using a variety of resources. By following good practice you can reduce the impact of doing washing on the environment and save money too:

- use the lowest temperature recommended for the clothing being washed – studies show that the biggest single impact of doing washing is the wash temperature used – washing at 40°C instead of 60°C saves money and has a lower impact on the environment
- avoid under-filling the machine to get the maximum amount of clothing washed for the electricity and water used
- measure detergent according to water hardness and the degree of soiling
- choose products to minimise packaging
- pre-sort laundry according to the recommended washing cycle
- use an eco-friendly washing powder or liquid

Where possible dry the clothing outside, to take advantage of the sun and the wind rather than using a tumble drier. For people with wood or gas stoves right in front of the stove makes a great place for a dryer rack.

For more information visit the Washright website: www.washright.com

Diapers

Diapers are one of our major waste problems. The average baby goes through around 6000 of them. Disposable diapers account for 4% of landfill waste where they can take 500 years to decompose. It takes a cup of crude oil to produce the plastic for one disposable diaper and in America alone 250,000 trees are felled each year to produce wood pulp for the filling.

Real diapers, i.e. washable cotton diapers, have come a long way since the old towelling squares our grandmothers remember! Modern convenient diaper designs and washing services make cloth a very practicable option for most people. For any times when real diapers are more difficult – for instance when travelling, consider using the ‘alternative’ disposables, which may be gel-free and use unbleached paper pulp. Even if you only use real diapers part of the time, you are still helping the environment. Cloth diapers are becoming more available in many stores including Sears and Health Food stores across the country.

The Green Mom website is a good source of information on all sorts of child care concerns: <http://www.greenmom.ca>

Parenting by Nature is an online Canadian source for cloth diapers.
www.parentingbynature.com Toll free in Canada: 1-866-86-4BABY

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Greening the **garden**

Many people have access to a garden, yard or balcony. Whatever the size of the patch, it is possible to look after it for the benefit of wildlife. Useful tips:

- ✿ install wildlife feeding stations, for example a bird table. Birds benefit from food provided throughout the year. Provide whole nuts in a mesh feeder and make sure you clean out the feeding station at least once a week to reduce the risk of disease
- ✿ to encourage wildflowers manage a section of grass as a meadow, allowing it to grow until July before cutting
- ✿ create habitats for insects and small mammals by leaving a section of grass uncut
- ✿ consider creating a bog area
- ✿ leave a pile of wood to rot, to act as a home to 'bugs' and a grocery store for many small creatures
- ✿ maintain a supply of water such as a pond or bird bath to allow wildlife to drink and bathe, but ensure that it is not a hazard to young children
- ✿ provide wildlife nesting sites like bird and bat boxes
- ✿ provide a variety of habitats for wildlife including thick foliage, and habitats at various heights by planting shrubs, hedges and trees, mindful of the size of the plot
- ✿ plant species to provide a variety of food sources including nectar, berries and seeds: these can be planted even in a relatively small pots
- ✿ use native plants i.e. ones that grow naturally in your country and region, as these are of most benefit to local wildlife
- ✿ install a compost bin to compost organic kitchen waste (avoid composting meat as it can attract vermin)
- ✿ minimise pesticide use and where possible use biodegradable sprays;
- ✿ avoid using peat and choose plants from garden centres grown in coir or other non-peat mediums
- ✿ consider planting drought-tolerant plants in dry soil with sunny aspects to reduce the need for watering
- ✿ install a water barrel connected to a down pipe for watering the garden

More people are choosing to grow and buy organic produce because it does not involve the use of pesticides that are potentially harmful to wildlife. Geoff Hamilton, the late presenter of *Gardeners' World* described organic gardening as: *"simply a way of working with nature rather than against it, of recycling natural materials to maintain soil fertility and of encouraging natural methods of pest and disease control, rather than relying on chemicals"*.

Further Resources on Greening the Garden

For advice on organic gardening contact:

Canadian Organic Growers, National Office 323 Chapel Street Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 7Z2 Phone: 613-216-0741, Toll free: 1-888-375-7383, Fax: 613-236-0743. Email: office@cog.ca . Website: <http://www.cog.ca/>

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Further Resources on Greening the Garden (cont.)

For information on alternatives to peat look for coconut fibre products like Beyond Peat or PeatEliminator products.

For a variety of leaflets on gardening for wildlife including planting, ponds, bird feeders, bird boxes and a free guide to the birds in your garden, contact:

Nature Canada 85 Albert St, Suite 900, Ottawa ON, K1P 6A4. Phone: 613-562-3447, Toll free: 1-800-267-4088. Fax: 613-562-3371. By email: info@naturecanada.ca. Website: www.naturecanada.ca

Further ideas can be found in **Module 9 ‘Planting and conserving Eden’**

“The Earth is the Lord’s” Psalm 24:1 (Authorised Version)

This includes any patch of garden that you look after!

Greening the shopping basket

General guidelines

We all need to buy goods, but we can make certain choices to reduce the environmental impact of our purchasing. There are five golden ‘R’s to consider before making a purchase:

Refuse – do I really need the item?

Reduce – do I need to consume as much, e.g. if buying a car I could buy one with a smaller engine rather than a 2.5l space cruiser, so saving resources used in manufacturing and running and fuel costs

Recycle – can the item I am considering buying be easily recycled? What proportion of recycled and raw materials are used in its construction?

Reuse – instead of buying a brand new item, can I reuse an existing item that I already have or buy it second hand?

Repair – instead of buying new, can I have an existing item repaired? Can the item that I am considering buying be easily repaired and are spare parts available?

Food

Not so many years ago the range of so-called exotic produce was largely limited to bananas and citrus fruit, with occasional pineapples and melons and seasonal Christmas oranges. Today the supermarkets and to a lesser extent greengrocers, supply a wide range of fruits and vegetables from across the world. The change has given increased choice, but in the process we have lost touch with the rhythm of the seasons. The change has also increased pollution from the transport of food – termed as food miles. Flying fruit and vegetables round the world uses up to 4 litres

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of fuel for each kilogram of produce. While there is a debate about the merits and risks of GM and whether or not there is a difference between the taste or nutritional value of organic produce, it is widely recognised that the use of pesticides, along with other intensive farming practices, has had a damaging impact on wildlife in the country. Our choices on the supermarket shelves and grocery stores can make a difference.

Good practice:

- buy locally grown produce where possible and support farmers markets
- consider growing your own produce if possible and practical
- make pickles, jams and preserves when produce is in season and cheap
- choose organically grown crops and avoid buying too much produce that has been flown in from around the world
- avoid choosing food with excessive packaging

Students and staff from The University of Calgary held a thanksgiving dinner with a difference. All the food prepared was from local sources (within 100 miles of Calgary). Paul Verhoef the U of C Chaplain for the Christian Reformed Church said at first it seemed like an impossible task to get everything locally grown but the process of finding the food was just as fun as the meal itself. And they even found a local vineyard where they could get wine to go with the meal. How's that for a 100 Mile diet.

Appliances

From time to time many householders choose to buy or replace so-called 'white goods' such as washing machines and refrigerators. With the impact of global warming growing, it is increasingly important to make energy consumption one of the factors in choosing a particular product. To help guide consumers the Energy Star label has been introduced, so enabling consumers to compare the energy consumption of different models. Choosing appliance with the EnergyStar label could save you hundreds of dollars.

Avoid battery-powered electrical goods and toys as most use 50 times more energy to make as they give out in their lifetime

Green Guide Online

A green consumer website has been launched to help individuals, organisations and local authorities source products and services relating to sustainable consumerism. The site has a search facility by topic or on a geographical basis (town, region or nationally). For details explore www.greenconsumerguide.com

Or you can borrow the Canadian Green consumer guide from Mennonite Church Canada Resources centre in Winnipeg by going to:
<http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/ResourceView/2/1859>

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Choosing green

One way of exercising good stewardship is to choose products that have the best environmental credentials. There are a number of official labels to guide consumers and help them tell the difference between products that are genuinely 'greener' rather than those products which merely claim to be green.

Eco-logo – Environmental Choice Program - www.environmentalchoice.com

"The Environmental Choice Program (ECP), Environment Canada's ecolabelling program, provides a market incentive to manufacturers and suppliers of environmentally preferable products and services, thereby helping consumers identify products and services that are less harmful to the environment." (Pg. 2 *Introduction to Green Labelling Programs*, IIDEX/NEOCON Canada)

Energy Star – www.energystar.gov

Energy Star is an international symbol that helps consumers recognize products that are the most energy efficient models available.

Forest Stewardship Council – www.fsc.org

The Forest Stewardship Council is an international system helping consumers recognize products that "promote responsible management of the world's forests".

Home Depot Canada Eco-options – www.homedepot.ca

Products available from Home Depot that show high levels of one of at least one of the following – energy efficiency, water efficiency, improved air quality, reduced toxicity, waste reduction, and/or responsible resource acquisition (eg. products made from recycled materials)

EcoLogic: Your Guide to the Most Environmentally friendly information, products and services in Canada by Adria Vasil is an extremely comprehensive, up to date (printed in 2007), easy to read guide to all things green in Canada. An absolute must!

Introduction to Green Labelling Programs produced by IIDEX/NEOCON.

Downloadable as a PDF from

<http://iidexneocon.com/2006/images/uploads/GreenLabellingReferenceGuide.pdf>

Greening personal finance

Personal finance is an area where individuals can make decisions that reflect their ethical values. Two key areas for making choices are the bank that you use and how you will invest any savings that you may have.

Bank or Building Society Accounts

An easy way to manage your money according to your environmental or other principles is to have an account with a bank with a clear and rigorous environmental policy. There are two positive routes that you can take to ensure this. One is to work with the bank that you currently use, and press them about their environmental policies, including their policy on Third World debt. Concerted pressure from customers can bring about change. A second option is to move your account to a bank that conducts business according to a set of ethical criteria that come close to

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your values. Whilst Eco-Congregation cannot endorse any one financial institution, some banks operate more positive environmental policies than others.

Savings

Many people have some form of saving. Common types include a bank or building society deposit account, shares or unit trusts, a financial vehicle such as an ISA and a pension. Ethical Investment is a way of saving according to a set of values. There are now a wide variety of ethical investment funds available, which operate according to a variety of principles. Details of savings products operating ethical criteria can be obtained from good financial advisers. There are several organizations and companies dedicated to socially and environmentally responsible investing. Type in “Ethical Investing Canada” into your www.blackle.com browser (the energy saving alternative to google.com) and see what you can find.

Giving

Charitable giving is an important way of using your money according to your principles. Many environmental charities are grateful for financial support, whether one-off gifts, a regular gift or legacy. Why not choose to support a Christian environmental organisation. The main ones Canada are listed in a later section.

For more information about tax efficient giving contact either your chosen charity(ies) or the Canadian Council o Christian Charities. CAF can advise on how the government encourages charitable giving by increasing the value of gifts at no extra cost to the individual donor.

Canadian Council of Christian Charities

1-21 Howard Ave, Elmira, ON, N3B 2C9. Phone (519) 669-5137. Email: mail@cccc.org. Website: www.cccc.org

Greening our travel

The growth of transport networks through the 20th century has given a greater freedom of mobility and many other benefits that have revolutionised life, but has caused significant environmental problems. The average car produces between 10,000 and 12,000 pounds of carbon dioxide each year, one of the main ‘greenhouse gases’ which causes global warming. 64% of all carbon dioxide pollution from transportation in Canada is from driving in cities. In addition the combustion of gas, diesel and oil produces other gaseous pollutants including nitrogen oxides and particulates that cause air pollution and which are linked to respiratory diseases, including asthma, particularly affecting children and other vulnerable people.

Some community responses:

- Staff at the University of Lancashire in the UK are encouraged to share journeys to work
- There has been a sharp rise in the number of children driven to school over the last 30 years, yet walking, cycling or taking the bus reduces congestion and provides good exercise. Some municipalities have produced maps showing safe routes for cycling and walking to school & around town
- Increasing numbers of municipalities have ‘park and ride’ programs

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Travel sensibly by:

- Walking or cycling more often, particularly for short distances
- Using the bus more often – the fares can be cheaper than the cost of driving per mile combined with parking charges
- Joining the increasing number of people taking the train
- Planning to use one journey for a number of tasks and, if possible, sharing journeys
- Asking if your employer would encourage the use of public transport through the provision of season ticket loans and encourage cycling to work by providing secure facilities for bicycles together with showers and lockers

Prevent pollution

- Drive at slower speeds - driving at 90 km/hr uses less fuel than driving at 100 or 129 km/hr
- Develop a good driving technique - where safe, accelerate gently and avoid sharp breaking. These methods can lead to a 25% reduction in fuel used
- Have your car serviced regularly – an incorrectly adjusted carburettor can waste up to 25% of fuel. Incorrect tire pressure can increase fuel consumption too

Additionally, when choosing a car, consider environmental credentials including the miles per gallon/km's per litre that it achieves. The car manufacturing process uses vast amounts of energy, so buying a second hand car can also help the environment, provided it still runs relatively cleanly and cheaply.

For further information about sustainable transport:

Consumer Report

www.consumerreports.org click on Cars in the left column and then go to Driving Green for a great summary of how hybrids work, the different kinds of cars available and lots of tips.

Environment Canada Drive Green Information

Office of Federal Environmental Stewardship (OFES)

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3

Phone: (819) 953-0608

Fax: (819) 953-4130

Website: <http://www.ns.ec.gc.ca/epb/factsheets/drive.html>

Greening our holidays

Tourism has grown rapidly through the 20th century. In the year 2000 tourism accounted for more jobs across the world than any other industry, including agriculture or arms. Our choices in leisure activities can make a big impact on both the environment and the communities visited. In choosing where and how to go on holiday, consider the following:

Travelling

How you travel can have a significant impact on the environment. Flying to your destination may be relatively cheap on the pocket (in part because there is no international tax on aviation fuel), but the environment pays a heavy price. An

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individual's return flight to the Europe causes more pollution than an average person's car travel in Canada over a whole year

Taking a train, bus, coach or ferry has a lower impact on the environment than flying or driving and a walking or cycling holiday has the least impact and allows a fuller appreciation of the surrounding country. To reduce travelling, consider choosing a destination in Canada.

Your destination

Tourism can have a considerable impact on the locality where the holidays are based. Consider choosing a destination and holiday in which you can both contribute to the local economy and gain an experience of life in your destination. Personally arranged holidays are more likely to make a positive contribution to the local economy than package holidays, where often the main profits go to the tour operator.

What you do

Consider a conservation activity, leisure-based or educational holiday. The Independent Travel Website has a Go Green Travel Center that can connect you with resources at <http://www.independenttraveler.com/resources/center.cfm?ID=4>

Many organisations, including environmental ones, have volunteering opportunities. The "Time Bank" website lists many of these: www.timebank.org.uk. Or contact them at: TimeBank, 2nd Floor, Downstream Building, 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9BG. Tel: 0845 456 1668, Fax: 0845 456 1669, Email: feedback@timebank.org.uk

Souvenirs

Avoid buying wildlife souvenirs e.g. skins, shells, coral, hardwood carvings, plants, etc unless you are sure they are legal and from sustainable sources.

Pilgrimage

If you want to join one of the increasing numbers of pilgrimages available to the Holy Land, ensure that your tour has an opportunity to meet with Palestinians and with the local Christian community.

"The term 'holiday' comes from the phrase 'holy day', which is about a time of recreation and refreshment. A true holiday offers us an opportunity to appreciate the wideness of God's creation and to learn from and share with others who are very different to ourselves." Rev Dr Jonathan Inkipin.

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Offsetting carbon emissions

Offsetting has become a popular way to counter the carbon emissions caused by travel. The best way to offset is to follow the tips above for greener travel (i.e. don't make the emissions in the first place). But if you find you absolutely have to travel by air or a lot by car consider offsetting the emissions by donating to an organization that invests in tree planting, wind turbines or some other "green" initiative.

Some of the offsetting programs to look into include:

Climate Stewards works with local communities in Ghana and South Africa to plant trees that are sustainable and appropriate for that area. For a carbon calculator, info on how to reduce carbon emissions and to learn about the projects visit www.climatestewards.ca or contact A Rocha Canada at (604) 542-9022 or canada@arocha.org .

Less Emissions Inc.

Green my flight is the first service to be given the Eco-label by the Federal Governments Environmental Choice program (usually it only goes to products). Visit www.less.com for more details or contact them at Less Emissions Inc. 119 Spadina Avenue, Suite 1000, Toronto, ON M5V 2L1. Phone (416) 362-3669, Toll free 1-877-573-3669, Fax: (416) 362-3930 .

Offsetters Climate Neutral Society

This organization supports Canadian and International projects. For more information see www.offsetters.com or conact them at Offsetters, 300-1110 Hamilton Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6B 2S2 Phone: (604) 688-6791 Email: info@offsetters.ca

All Saints Church, Wellington, used the advice in this module to print off a different "green tip" each week during a sermon series on "God's Green Gospel". At the end of the series they compiled all the "green tips" into a booklet, to which they added extra local information. The booklets were distributed to each family in the congregation, to parents who attend their Mother and Toddler groups, and to people who visited them during their Green Fair. Mrs Claerwen Frost.

Christ Church in Ross-on-Wye conducted a survey of church members asking them questions about the church's environmental performance and also what they were doing at home to care for creation. They published the results in their church magazine under the title 'How Green Are We?'. They also have a regular Green column in the magazine offering a tip of the month. Rodney Shaw.

Callander Church in Perthshire developed an 'Eco-desk' manned in the Kirk Hall following the Sunday service on the last Sunday of each month. It allows the congregation to access environmental information, find out what the church is doing and ask questions of the Green Team.

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Christian environmental organisations

Over the last thirty years a number of Christian initiatives/organisations have developed as responses to the growing awareness of the gravity of environmental issues and the conviction that Christians and the Church can bring a faith-based perspective to environmental work. If you would like to know more about or become involved in work to promote Christian care of the environment consider contacting one of the following organisations

A Rocha Canada – Christians In Conservation

A Rocha is a Christian nature conservation organisation, the name coming from the Portuguese for "the Rock", as the first initiative was in Portugal. As Christians all over the world have recognised the urgent need to protect and restore important habitats, A Rocha has become a family of national organisations working in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, North and South America and Asia. A Rocha projects are frequently cross-cultural in character, and share a community emphasis, with a focus on science and research, practical conservation and environmental education. There are volunteering opportunities at many of the projects. A Rocha Canada (ARC) has two field study centres, one in south Surrey, B.C. and one in southern Manitoba in the Pembina Valley near Winkler MB. ARC produces a quarterly newsletter, runs environmental education programs, does biological research and conservation projects, hosts conferences, produces resource to help churches, encourages A Rocha community groups and campus chapters, hosts volunteers and interns from all over the world, runs a community shared agriculture (in Surrey) and is home to The River Store – a native plant nursery . A Rocha UK produces a pack each year to help churches to celebrate "Environment Sunday" on the first Sunday in June.

To receive newsletters (for free) or to visit a centre contact:
A Rocha Canada 512-172 Street, Surrey, B.C. V3S 9R3. (604) 542-9022
Website: www.arocha.org/canada

To order the Environment Sunday Pack online see <http://en.arocha.org/ukconsunday> , or contact A Rocha UK at: Email uk@arocha.org , Phone +44 20 8574 5935 to find out about postage to Canada.

Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

The CFFO is an organization with the dual purpose of:

- enabling farmers to work out their Christian faith in their vocation as citizens and
- to develop policy applications of the Christian faith to agriculture.

The CFFO's main service or "products" are:

- Public Policy Development and
- Education/Communication.

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Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

7660 Mill Rd., RR 4, Guelph, ON N1H 6J1

Phone: (519) 837-1620

Email: cffomail@christianfarmers.org

Website: www.christianfarmers.org

KAIROS – Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives

KAIROS unites churches and religious organizations in a faithful ecumenical response to the call to "do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). They deliberate on issues of common concern, advocate for social change and join with people of faith and goodwill in action for social transformation. KAIROS advocates for justice in areas such as Aboriginal rights, anti-poverty, corporate issues, ecology, global economic justice, human rights, and refugees & migrants. Their ecological campaigns include water, energy efficiency, and climate change.

KAIROS

129 St. Clair Ave. West, Toronto, ON M4V 1N5

Toll Free: (877) 403-8933

Email: info@kairoscanada.org

Website: www.kairoscanada.org

The Canadian Scientific & Christian Affiliation

The CSCA (Canadian Science and Christian Affiliation) is a professional association of unique breadth and diversity.

They are the only organization in Canada that deals with the broad range of issues in science and faith from a position of professional engagement within the sciences. Issues such as: Cosmology and Origins; Neuroscience and the Soul; Stewardship and our Environment; Evolution and Creation; Physics and Philosophy; Morality and Psychology.

They are a group of men and women with a common interest in science and a common allegiance to the Christian Faith. They are chemists, biologists, historians of science, physiologists, mathematicians, physicists, teachers, and pastors. They have members from coast to coast representing nearly every Christian denomination in Canada. They are an association of professionals devoted to the highest standards of intellectual inquiry, research, teaching, and public service.

The Canadian Scientific & Christian Affiliation

Box 40086, 75 King Street S., Waterloo, ON N2J 4V1

Phone: (905) 541-2086

Email: info@csc.ca

Website: www.csc.ca

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Greening **Christmas**

At Christmas it is easy to go into an all-consuming, all-disposing frenzy. According to statistics Canada, Canadian households generated 12 million tonnes of waste in 2002. That's 383 kg per person! And the number increases every year. A good portion of that is during the holiday seasons but it doesn't have to be. By getting creative and ignoring the millions of adds enticing you to want more we can make Christmas what it is meant to be. A time of good fellowship with family and friends as we celebrate the Creator's birth.

Reduce and Recycle

Cards: send e-cards to friends; pin up a 'communal' card at church or work instead of sending individual ones; make sure cards you buy are recycled and support charities; recycle old cards by turning them into postcards for sending thank you notes or for next year's greetings.

Trees & Decorations: buy a local-grown tree and recycle it afterwards— most local authorities have programs to shred trees into garden mulch; better still, buy a tree with roots that you can plant in the garden and re-use; old newspapers, magazines and scrap material can make great paper chains and decorations. Use LED lights and only keep them on for a short while each night.

Presents: the best presents are often simple and carefully chosen; buy local, Fair Trade or second-hand; support charities; make your own; avoid battery-powered goods (most use 50 times more energy to make than they give out), give membership of a Christian environmental / conservation charities (e.g. A Rocha, Christian Farmers Federation, KAIROS, Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation). Alternatively, give a 'living gift' through a wildlife charity (e.g. plant a native tree or sponsor a wild animal on someone's behalf)

Wrapping paper: re-use where possible; wrap your presents with string, wool or ribbon so that the paper can be reused.

Cosmetics: choose eco-friendly cosmetics that are better for your health and for the water going down your sink and are not tested on animals.

Bags and packaging: take bags on shopping trips to avoid returning with a whole load of plastic bags; buy food and drinks in appropriate sized containers (e.g. one large instead of several smaller) and choose products with less packaging to reduce your mountain of garbage.

Eat well

Turkey: 10 million turkeys are gobbled up at Christmas, most produced in cramped conditions without natural light. Buy an organic, free range bird – it will have led a happier life and your lunch will taste better too.

Pop a cork: when buying wine, ensure it has a natural cork; cork oak forests are home to a rich variety of wildlife and the cork is harvested without harming the trees.

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Buy local: visit your local farmer's market – the products will have travelled fewer 'food miles' and will often be less packaged. Or can the summer's produce from your garden and use it for Christmas dinner.

Greening the **workplace**

Many workplaces use a lot of resources and produce a lot of waste. Many of the ideas in this module can be applied to our workplaces as well as homes. Many of the guidelines set by the Sustainable Development in Government Operations (SDGO) initiative are useful for any workplace. Visit www.greeninggovernment.gc.ca for PDF's of a Green Meeting Plan and Green Team Best Practices.

Environment Canada

Greening government website: www.greeninggovernment.gc.ca

A Guide to Creating an Environmentally Friendly office

<http://www.atl.ec.gc.ca/udo/office/office.html>

Greening the **end of life**

Planning for death is a part of life. Many people make wills and also plan for their funeral. With increasing pressure on land for conventional burial, the unsightly sprawl of some cemeteries and the need for considerable energy use in crematoriums, green funerals offer a way of expressing concern for the environment through death.

A green funeral may include a coffin made entirely of natural materials, such as willow, or a cheaper model made out of a recycled cardboard, both of which will rot when buried. Depending on location, it may be possible to opt for a 'green burial'. Green burials involve the use of a plot whose location may be recorded, but not marked by a headstone. Once used for burial, the land is managed for the benefit of the environment. Options include woodland burial, where trees are planted in areas where the graves have been filled and meadowland burial, where the land is subject to a mowing regime to encourage the growth of wildflowers.

Green burials can use fewer valuable resources than conventional funerals, often cost less and leave a legacy of a wildlife haven, where life can flourish after death.

Natural Burial Association

70 The Esplanade
Suite 400, Toronto, ON, M5E 1R2
(416) 360-0044 ext 377
jmccausland@green-living.ca
<http://www.naturalburialassoc.ca/>

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Further Resources

Books

Caring for Creation in your own Backyard. Loren and Mary Ruth Wilkinson. Regent College Publishing, 1997. www.regentpublishing.com

Serve God, Save the Planet: A Christian Call to Action, J. Matthew Sleeth, Zondervan, 2007 www.servegodsaveplanet.org
– A must read for all who care about the planet this unique book tells the story of Matthew Sleeth’s journey to a heightened awareness of ecological issues through his work as an ER doctor and what he and his family did to reduce their impact.

Ecoholic: Your guide to the most environmentally friendly information, products and services in Canada. Adria Vasil. Random House Canada, 2007.
www.randomhouse.ca

Websites

Green mom - www.greenmom.ca

Green living – www.greenlivingonline.com

– a great website for Canadians interested in all things “green”.

A directory of **useful organisations**

A Rocha Canada - Christians in Conservation

Working to care for God’s world together.

512 172 Street

Surrey, B.C. V3S 9R3

Phone: (604) 542-9022

Email: canada@arocha.org

Website: www.arocha.org

Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

7660 Mill Rd., RR 4

Guelph, ON N1H 6J1

Phone: (519) 837-1620

Email: cffomail@christianfarmers.org

Website: www.christianfarmers.org

KAIROS

An ecumenical group working on social and environmental justice issues

129 St. Clair Ave. West

Toronto, ON M4V 1N5

Toll Free: (877) 403-8933

Email: info@kairoscanada.org

Website: www.kairoscanada.org

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The Canadian Scientific & Christian Affiliation

A group of professional scientists working out the junction between faith and their work.

Box 40086, 75 King Street S.
Waterloo, ON N2J 4V1
Phone: (905) 541-2086
Email: info@csc.ca
Website: www.csc.ca

Faith and the Common Good

An interfaith group working for ecological justice

47 Queen's Park Cres. E.
Toronto, ON M5S 2C3
Phone: (416) 978-5306
Email: info@faith-commongood.net
Website: www.faith-commongood.net

About Eco-Congregation

Eco-Congregation is an ecumenical environmental project for churches in Britain, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and Canada. It provides free resources, support and an Award program to help churches to consider environmental issues in the context of their Christian life and mission and to take positive action. Eco-Congregation was originally developed by the environmental charity ENCAMS on behalf of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI). It is now overseen by CTBI and delivered by a partnership of organisations.

In Canada, Eco-congregation is managed and delivered by A Rocha Canada.

Contact: A Rocha Canada, 512 172 Street, Surrey, B.C. V3S 9R3
Tel: 604 542-9022
Email: canada@arocha.org
Web: www.arocha.org/canada

In England, Eco-Congregation is managed by A Rocha UK and supported by a grant from the Methodist Relief and Development Fund. The office base is at The Arthur Rank Centre (ARC). Contact: 024 7669 2491, Email: ecocongregation@arocha.org ,
Web: www.ecocongregation.org/englandwales

In Scotland, Eco-Congregation is managed and delivered through a partnership between Keep Scotland Beautiful (an Associated company of ENCAMS) and the Society, Religion and Technology Project (SRT) of the Church of Scotland. It is endorsed by Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS) and is supported financially by the Scottish Executive's Sustainable Action Fund. Contact : +44 (0)131 556 2953 , Email: ecocongregation@srt.org.uk , Web: www.ecocongregation.org/scotland

Churches in Wales are supported by Eco-Congregation based at the Arthur Rank Centre.