

eco- congregation



an environmental toolkit for churches

Module 11

community matters

*Ideas to help churches work with, through and for
their local communities*

*Eco-congregation Canada is a project of
A Rocha Canada – Christians in Conservation
512 172 Street, Surrey, B.C., V3S 9R3 Registered Charity # 86663 8943 RR0001*

Module 11 – **community matters**

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Good news in the community

The church, at its best, is the local community meeting together to worship God, listening and exploring God's word and responding by bringing to life the prayer 'thy Kingdom come'. Churches have a long and honourable tradition of working for, with and in the local community. Through the centuries, churches have played a leading role in:

- the provision of education and other children's work
- the establishment, provision and continuing support of healthcare
- working in the public and private sectors including industry and prisons
- challenging the causes of poverty and providing relief from its impact
- abolishing slavery from the time of Wilberforce through to Jubilee 2000
- providing sustenance and shelter from soup kitchens to housing associations

Some of the work is motivated from the teaching and ministry of Jesus, including the call to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick and visit the imprisoned. Today this missionary role continues through national organisations and, most importantly, through the mission and ministry of local churches who seek to promote social inclusion and wellbeing in their local community.

It is not possible to prescribe a general solution for, or to legislate against, every local problem. Community matters are often most effectively dealt with from grassroots initiatives, where enthusiasm and zeal, commitment and collaboration, and local knowledge and understanding combine to make the biggest difference.

Accordingly, this Module doesn't attempt to provide off the peg 'solutions'. Instead, the main part of the Module consists of stories about local initiatives in different places. These are retold in the hope that they will inspire churches to seek out the problems and opportunities in their own communities and develop their own partnerships and initiatives in response. The stories also illustrate the mission opportunities of working on environmental issues with local authorities and other statutory and faith groups. In many instances the churches are able to share Christian values through their words and deeds and achieve recognition as a valued and vital part of the community.

There is also an introductory section that outlines some global perspectives including the concept of sustainability.

"Faith community leaders should press local authorities to make more use of the resources faith communities can offer in regeneration initiatives – for they are an extensive network of local people, community leaders, buildings and volunteers."

Hilary Armstrong – Government Regeneration Minister (2000)

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What is **Sustainable Development**?

Sustainable development is a phrase that has been subject to a wide number of definitions and interpretations. The 1987 Brundtland Report “Our Common Future”, published by the UN World Commission on Environment and Development, defined sustainable development as:

“development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

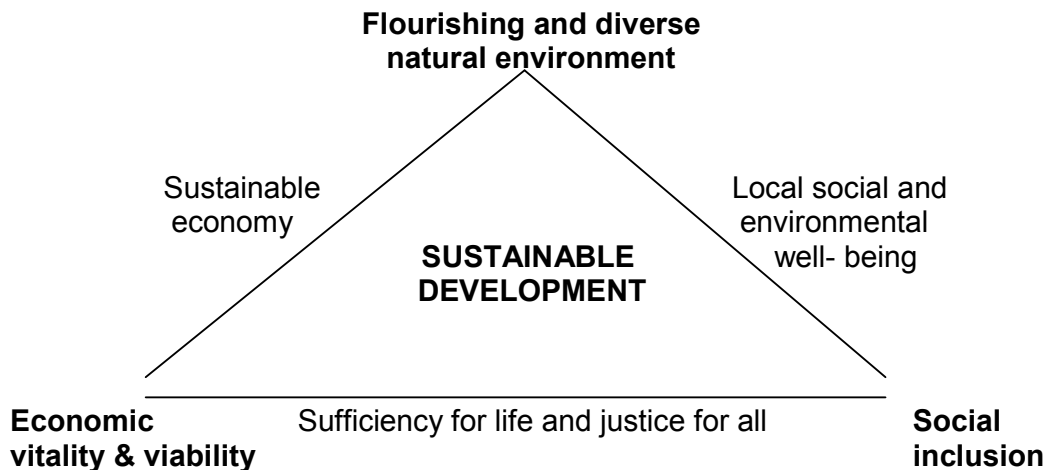
A shorthand expression for sustainable development could be:

‘not cheating on our children’!

Most of the definitions of sustainable development recognise the following three key components:

1. economic vitality and viability
2. a flourishing and diverse natural environment
3. social inclusion

Sustainable development results from the integration of these three key components, as illustrated in the triangle diagram below:



At a local level, sustainable development includes:

- living sufficient and equitable lifestyles
- locally sustainable communities and economies
- using resources efficiently
- minimising waste and pollution
- participation by people in decision-making processes
- taking responsibility now to ensure that the needs of future generations can be met

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Better together: **churches and local partnerships**

A view from the churches

From its earliest days, Christianity has been a missionary faith, gathering together as the church for worship and going out into the community to share the love of God in word and deed. Churches participating in the Eco-Congregation Programme have followed in this tradition by working with a wide variety of local organisations including:

- other churches and faith groups
- local authorities
- community groups
- local businesses
- environmental and wildlife conservation organisations
- nature reserves
- charities
- and more....

Many churches have reported that their collaboration with other community organisations has stimulated and supported their environmental activities, often leading to the release of funds, inspiration and energy.

Churches have also observed that, as well as contributing to the well-being of the environment, many of the partnerships have led to the development of stronger links between churches and a sense of community building. Some churches have identified the potential for embarking on much bigger partnership ventures and all recognise that through their work they have been implicitly sharing the love of God and the Kingdom values that Jesus preached about and practised.

A view from local authorities

In order to plan and deliver a local sustainable development policy, local authorities need to work with the municipal, business and voluntary sectors in their area. If you have a local environment centre or organization, consider developing a link to discover how the centre might be able to support and encourage your work. As a part of this process churches are a potentially valuable partner because:

- they have a pro-environment and community philosophy
- they are often a focus of community organisations and life
- they often have a set of premises where people gather and which can be used by the community for other purposes
- the church is present in virtually every community
- they often have a key worker (vicar, minister or priest) associated with them
- they are made up of people drawn from across the age range, social spectrum and from economic status
- as a community they meet both Sunday by Sunday and through the week too
- they seek to witness to the love of God
- the members are willing to undertake lifestyle changes for reasons other than perceived personal gain

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Case study - A Scottish environmental centre – Forth Environment Link

Forth Environment Link (FEL) has evolved over a number of years to be a vibrant environmental centre serving the Stirling area of Scotland. Having developed a wide range of resources and activities for children through school and youth groups, FEL identified churches as a key group to work with in the community. They began work to encourage churches to use and manage the resources that they own in a more sustainable way and to integrate the ethos of 'caring for God's creation' into every part of church life. FEL played a key role in the pilot stage of Eco-Congregation and the Scottish launch of the programme and now hosts a lending library of useful resources for churches engaged in the programme. FEL has worked specifically with:

- **Stirling Methodist Church Youth Group** who carried out a personal environmental audit to discover their own impact on the planet and widened this to a whole church audit
- **Callander Kirk**, who undertook an audit and identified five areas for action. These were energy use, waste, purchasing policy, grounds and transport. It was realised that though some measures had financial costs, many would bring about long-term financial savings
- **Kippen Church Sunday School** who explored how people in Biblical times used, enjoyed and cared for the natural world when people had a much greater dependence on, and respect for, creation. A practical project focused on the story of Moses in the bulrushes and involved children in making their own baskets from local willows

Contact: Forth Environment Link, 7 Stirling Business Centre, Wellgreen Place, Stirling, FK8 2DZ. Tel. 01786 449215, Email: resources@forthenvironmentlink.org
Website: www.forthenvironmentlink.org

Inter-faith initiatives

Most of the world's major faiths have a set of precepts valuing the environment and promoting care of the Earth. Consequently other faith groups can make good partners in projects to promote a sense of care for the environment and taking appropriate practical actions.

In many areas inter-faith groups work to promote dialogue and sharing between faith groups and, in some places, more tangible initiatives. By working on environmental issues at an inter-faith level, churches can share their concerns about the environment, discover how other faith groups view environmental issues and consider taking some joint action. Such an approach can strengthen a community's care of the environment and strengthen links between the faith groups.

Contact: 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

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Community stories

Church in community – **mission and ministry**

The following stories are mainly drawn from community initiatives by churches involved in the UK Eco-congregation program. They witness to the church bringing the Kingdom of God on earth into local neighbourhoods. As Canadian churches become involved these stories will be replaced with your stories.

- Do these stories give you some ideas for your own church?
- Can you spread the good news about what is already happening in your community?

Eco-Forum – a Church and Community Environment Day

Motivated to raise awareness of environmental issues in their community and local churches, St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green organised an “Eco-Forum” Day to explore “Christian responsibilities and response to God’s creation”. With support from a Green Partnership Award, and participation from the local Energy Efficiency Advice Centre and Lancashire Wildlife Trust, the church organised a programme with speakers on:

- ◆ Energy efficiency
- ◆ Green funerals
- ◆ Greening your church
- ◆ Spiritual responsibility in today’s world
- ◆ Wildlife conservation in churchyards

Feedback included:

‘helped me to think about saving the world God created’

‘this initiative has provided inspiration for the church and community –it has helped me to gather information to take back to my work at school’

If you go down to the Woods today... (www.stlukes.merseyside.org)

St Luke’s Church of England, Formby, nestles in a section of coastal pine woodland, that is home to indigenous red squirrels, separated from the sea by the extensive dunes. A Woodland Workshop group made up of church members manages the churchyard according to plans developed in partnership with the Sefton Coastal Authorities. Team leader Bob Wagstaff reports:

In addition to creating a beautiful woodland habitat in the churchyard, the Woodland Workshop team work in other local areas. One year we targeted a ‘grot spot’ strewn with litter, and, with the help of additional recruits, collected 95 bags of rubbish. The next year we returned to collect more recently accumulated rubbish and to trim trees overgrowing the bridle way that also serves as access for emergency vehicles such as fire engines to the coastal woodland.

Our efforts have been appreciated in the community, have helped us gain the Eco-Congregation Award, which we proudly received from Bishop James Jones, and have featured in a BBC Radio Merseyside broadcast.

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Changing climate and changing attitudes in Durham

In June we held an open evening on climate change – what it might mean to us and our children’s future and what we can do about it. A representative from County Hall gave us an illustrated talk on Durham County’s Action Plan with regard to climate change and children from the local school performed the drama ‘The Ark in the Garage’ (from Operation Noah – see www.christian-ecology.org.uk). The local council provided a display and advice on energy saving in homes and low-energy light bulbs were available. Despite the rain there was a large attendance of parents and children and the atmosphere was buzzing with questions and discussion.

Myra Stonley – St Mary the Virgin, Easingwold

A Post Script. A few years ago Myra was diagnosed with cancer. In coming to terms with the illness Myra chose not give up things but take up something to enrich her life and those around her. She chose to work with children on environmental issues, drawing on the resources of Eco-Congregation. She felt it was a gift that she could give to the next generation. Over the next few years Myra worked unstintingly, organising activities and inspiring young and old alike. Sadly Myra died in early 2004, but not before the children of her church received an Eco-Congregation Award from environmentalist Prof. David Bellamy, who had tutored her many years ago on botany. Myra’s legacy is to creation and in the hearts of those whose lives she touched.

Feeding the birds

Dalbeattie Parish Church put up nest boxes, a bird bath and a feeding station in their grounds to improve their value for wild birds. The feeding station has proved so popular that it needs refilling regularly. No problem! All the community groups that use the church hall during the week contribute money to bulk buy bird seed and nuts and help to keep the feeders topped up at all times. They also keep the bird bath clean and filled with water.

Clothing, goods and bottles

As part of their community outreach, **Bramford Road Methodist Church** operates a local charity shop which receives donations of clothing and other goods no longer needed and sells them at affordable prices. The shop also provides a focus for the local community in which it is situated. Additionally, the church has sought permission to run a community recycling scheme in their car park, collecting bottles, paper and tins.

Nailing their green colours to the mast

St Peter’s Claybrooke Parva in rural Leicestershire is in the locality of one of the proposed sites for a new Midlands airport. The church nailed their colours literally to the mast by wrapping a giant sized ‘no to the airport’ banner around their church tower. St Peter’s also hosted a local protest meeting at which around 500 attended. At the start of the meeting the Vicar welcomed all present, indicated the church’s own commitment to good environmental stewardship and spoke of how a “no” to the airport was also a “no” to expecting or using low-cost air travel. The message was received in silence but afterwards the Vicar was commended for her honesty and stance. Less controversially, the church also host a recycling bank which, due to patronage, needs emptying on at least a monthly basis.

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Cans for Community Projects

St Osmund's Church in Derby set up an aluminium can recycling project to raise awareness of recycling in the local community, and also to raise money. After several months of collecting, they realised that they needed a can crusher. The local City Council Lottery Officer helped them to identify who to approach for a grant, and they applied successfully to the Royal Society for Nature Conservation's Seed Programme, receiving £814. As well as purchasing the can crusher from "Pressing Solutions", the grant paid for the printing of an awareness-raising leaflet which was distributed to 3000 homes by the local councillors when they were delivering their regular ward newsletter. Most of the cans come from non-church individuals and groups such as the YMCA and Working Men's Club. The project does not require a lot of time to run. People leave bags of cans on the vicarage doorstep and a volunteer spends up to an hour a week crushing them. When about 50kg has been collected, they are sold to a scrap metal merchant for about £23. The church has already raised over £100 through this project, to be spent on community projects.

N.B. The SEED programme no longer operates but a range of other grants are available. Ask your local council for advice.

Prayer to redeem the rubbish

Creating God

Redeem our hearts, that we may understand the need to care for your creation

Redeem our minds to connect your Word with our lifestyle

Redeem our hands to put priorities into action

That the rubbish may be redeemed

For the leaves on the trees shall be for the healing of the nations. Amen

Writing for recycling

Zion United Reformed Church, Northallerton, wrote to a local supermarket requesting that they use their site for facilities for recycling a variety of materials – the letter was successful and the town gained a new facility.

Community Litter Pick

Torphichen Parish Church, West Lothian, organises a fortnightly litter pick, tackling a different part of the village and surrounding countryside each time. The group includes members of the church and others from the community and is also a good opportunity for a chat and to walk the dog! The church has also set up recycling collection points for printer cartridges, one in the church and one in a local shop.

Mud and mission in Wakefield

When **Wakefield Baptist Church** embarked upon Eco-Congregation they discovered that their 'green group' enjoyed putting their faith into action. The group offered their enthusiasm and energy to the local nature reserve, where it was gratefully received. Their efforts led to a 'mucked out' pond, some footpath building and maintenance, a link between the church and their local nature reserve, a sense of pride in their achievements, some positive publicity in the local press and the strengthening of the church fellowship.

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Building a sustainable community in Paisley

At St Fergus Roman Catholic Church in Paisley, the environmental work has focussed around a very active youth group and been supported by the Renfrewshire Sustainable Communities Project. The youth group first learnt about the environment through games and activities run by the countryside Rangers and church trips to the countryside. They have cleaned up the litter in the church grounds and on the surrounding housing estate, planted up the church grounds to make them more attractive both for the community and for wildlife, helped plant trees as part of a habitat restoration project on the outskirts of Paisley, and distributed energy efficient light bulbs to the community.

Faith in the Nottingham Community

Faith in the Community was established in 1996 as an inter-faith venture to encourage faith communities to create a vision of how they would like to live in the 21st century and start to take practical steps towards the vision. The programme evolved from a partnership between representatives from most of the practising faith communities in Nottingham including the Nottingham Inter-Faith Council, supported by Nottinghamshire County Council's Sustainable Community Officer.

The programme led to a series of visions drawn from each of the faith perspectives and also a sense of community building between the different faith communities and the statutory authority. The programme affirmed the valuable role that faith communities have in shaping and building sustainable communities.

Renewing old wineskins at the Vines Centre, Kent

The Vines Centre Trust is a dynamic Christian charity determined to reduce waste and address the needs of the disadvantaged in new and unconventional ways. It developed from the Vines Church in Rochester, Kent, who saw an opportunity to harness the initiatives and enthusiasm that exists across Medway to serve the considerable needs in their local community. It has received support from churches across Medway whose members sought to express the Christian faith in practical ways. It has also benefited from forming partnerships with other key sectors including the local authority, business community and other voluntary bodies.

The Trust has successfully developed several recycling and re-use projects which act as the foundation for skills training, personal development and work experience projects for the beneficiaries it serves. Beneficiaries served include young people on New Deal (ETF), the long term unemployed via an Intermediate Labour Market and volunteers.

Their projects include:

Home from Home, which is a furniture reuse project that builds on a project started in St John's Church, Chatham. This scheme has developed to recycle wood and paint too.

CyberArk, which makes IT facilities and equipment available to disadvantaged groups in society

Contact: The Vines Centre Trust, Unit G3, Knights Park, Knights Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 2LS. Tel: 01634 290271 Fax: 01634 290893
Email: trust@vinescentre.org.uk Web: www.vinescentre.org.uk

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The Black Majority Churches Project

The environmental awareness charity ENCAMS ran a pilot project working with Black Majority Churches in inner city areas, to encourage them to initiate environmental action and improvements in their local communities. The stories from this project, and lessons learnt, have been summed up in two very practical and down to earth booklets (details below). They are particularly relevant to inner city churches and urban priority areas. Here are two of the case studies featured:

Lozells Community Clean – Up

Lozells is an inner city area with living, trading and recreational spaces blighted by litter, fly-tipping, graffiti and flyposting and overrun with vermin. The Lozells Community Clean Up emerged from an environmental gathering of Black Majority Churches, who were concerned about their area. The churches invited representatives from Birmingham City Council (BCC), Groundwork, Lozells and Birchfield Trading Associations and other community organisations to joint meetings to plan and deliver the event.

The churches and other organisations worked together to make the event a success.

The churches contributed by:

- Informing the congregation and community
- Providing a venue as a central meeting place
- Recruiting volunteers for the clean up
- Preparing refreshments after the event

The following services were provided by other organisations:

- Promotional material
- Refreshments – provided by the planning group, McDonald's and local businesses
- A small grant provided by Whitbread Action Earth
- A taskforce team to offer support during the event – provided by Groundwork
- Paint and apparatus to remove graffiti – provided by B&Q
- Financial contribution towards the event – provided by a local trader

Promotion

- Photographs of local eyesore spots were displayed on A3 posters and A5 fliers
- Promotional material was distributed to places of worship, businesses, schools, surgeries and community venues
- The clean up was featured on the BBC website
- An article was featured in the Birmingham Post and there were interviews on local radio stations

On the day

A meeting place central to the sites was chosen, to which litter pickers, refuse bags, clean up kits and other items were delivered prior to the clean up. On the day of the event, volunteers were given a safety briefing, assigned to a team leader, then issued with protective aprons, gloves, tools, etc. The teams then dispersed and carried out the planned work for each site over a period of approximately 90 minutes. Whilst at separate sites, walkie talkies were used to maintain communication

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between the team leaders. All volunteers were given refreshments at the end of the event.

Outcomes

- 70 people took part in the clean up, 50 from local churches
- 180 bags of rubbish were gathered and graffiti removed from 5 prioritised sites
- Featured on BBC and Central television local news
- Attracted sponsorship from commercial organisations;
- Ongoing multi-faith clean ups in Lozells Road area to maintain sites
- Inspired clean ups in other areas
- Promoted a sense of community spirit and hope
- Raised the capacity of community groups to voice their concerns with Birmingham City Council
- Increased recognition of faith communities from statutory and voluntary organisations

“I have been doing assemblies this week and a lot of my students have seen me, along with church congregations and residents getting involved, so the idea of the operation and how it can work has come across to the young people.”

Revd Jemima Prasadam, St Paul and St Silas Church, Lozells

“There has been a noticeable change in attitudes. We feel we can actually achieve something now.”

Local Resident

Church Allotment in Handsworth

Housing provisions in urban areas sometimes have small gardens or none at all and managing an allotment plot can seem an overwhelming task for an individual and requires money or equipment to begin.

The **Life and Light Fellowship in Handsworth** acquired a plot at the largest allotment site in the UK that accommodates a broad range of gardening styles including organic, raised bed, cottage style, traditional rotation, permaculture and tropical. After being allocated the plot, gardening tools and seeds were obtained and members of the congregation began working at the site weekly. The church’s minibus was made available to transport participants to and from the allotment. Through summer/autumn, a selection of vegetables, fruit and flowers were successfully grown and harvested. The church used the opportunity to link the experiences of preparing the ground, sowing and reaping, to the church’s Bible study programme.

Outcomes

- A bumper Harvest Festival celebration;
- The whole age range of the congregation was involved in the allotment;
- Enabled senior members of the congregation to pass on valuable skills and knowledge about plants, cultivation and cooking various produce;
- Encouraged a good general awareness of environmental issues as well as teaching valuable nutritional lessons;
- The time spent digging, raking, planting, weeding and harvesting was a good way for all to take exercise.

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Quotes

“A great deal of fun.” Dalton Clark, Allotment Co-ordinator, Life and Light Fellowship, Handsworth

“There have been very positive outcomes and we can see the potential of our project. The youth have already learnt a great deal about the childhood experiences of some of the older members and about farming and rural life in the Caribbean. In addition a respect for gardens and the never-ending battle of nurturing the crop you want and not the weeds.” Revd James Herbert, Life and Light Fellowship, Handsworth

In addition to this, the church organised and conducted a walk around the areas surrounding their church and discussed its environmental setting. The exercise helped them (mainly a gathered congregation) to identify the blights in their neighbourhood and consider how to act to improve the quality of their local environment. They are now in the process of preparing for a greater harvest next year, whilst considering the possibility of developing a green space close to the church that would be utilised by the community for recreation.

ENHANCE booklets

Volume 1 - **Engaging with communities through local environmental improvements** - is a guide for Churches and other Faith Communities, to encourage and help them to deliver environmental projects together with the community and with the support of outside agencies. It offers churches proven ideas that may be incorporated into existing church life.

Volume 2 - **Engaging faith communities in local environmental improvements** - is a guide for local authorities, statutory and voluntary organisations to engage Faith Communities in local environmental improvements.

The booklets present case studies each with:

- the outline of a problem
- the action that was taken
- the outcomes achieved
- helpful support available or ways to support community groups

Call the ENCAMS enquiry line on 01942 612639 for a free copy.

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A directory of **useful organizations**

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

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

Denominational resources (Canadian unless otherwise noted):

(NB if you know of more that we have missed please let us know so they can be included. Thank you)

United

The United Church has been involved with ecological justice since the 1970's. They have resources based around Climate Change, water and more.

Contact: Joy Kennedy
Program Coordinator, Ecological Justice
(416) 231-7680 ext 4069
Email: jkennedy@united-church.ca

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Website: www.united-church.ca/ecology or www.united-church.ca/justice

Anglican

There is an active environmental program in the Anglican church with lots of great resources and programs to get involved in. Check your Diocese to find out who the Environment Officer is

#580 – 401 West Georgia Street

Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5A1

Phone: (604) 684-6306 ext 227

Email: contact@greeningspirit.ca

Website: www.greeningspirit.ca

Catholic

Catholic Conservation Center (Based in US).

http://conservation.catholic.org/catholic_conservation_center.htm

Mennonite

MCC Canada has many bible studies, resources and programmes that can help you care for creation. Contact www.mcc.org/careforcreation

Mennonite Creation Care Network (Based in US)

Box 263

Wolf Lake, IN 46796

Phone: 260-799-5869

Email: Luke Gascho at lukeag@goshen.edu

Website: www.mennocreationcare.org

Christian Reformed Church of America

Creation Stewardship Toolkit

- CRWRC's Environmental Assessment Toolkit available from:

3475 Mainway

Box 5070 Stn LCD 1

Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8

Phone: 905-336-2920

CRC Justice Seekers

CRC Justice Seekers is an online community of Christians who discuss, inform, and share their thoughts on justice with others in the Christian Reformed Church.

www.justiceseekers.ning.com Join the CRC Eco-justice group to talk about all things environmental. Email osjha@crcna.org for general questions.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Stewardship of Creation National Coordinator 1-888-786-6707

Each synod has also appointed a *Stewardship of Creation Initiative* coordinator.

See <http://www.elcic.ca/Stewardship/Stewardship-of-Creation/Contact-Us.cfm> for contact info.

Greening Congregation Accreditation Program

<http://www.elcic.ca/Stewardship/Stewardship-of-Creation/Greening-Congregation.cfm>

Energy Conservation in LCC Churches

www.lutheranchurch.ca/resources/energyconservation.pdg

Baptist

Resources and a declaration for Southern Baptists www.baptistcreationcare.org

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Presbyterian

Presbyterian World Service & Development
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
50 Wynford Dr., Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
(416) 441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301
Fax: 416-441-2825
Email: pwsd@presbyterian.ca
Website: www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd

Go to www.presbyterian.ca and type creation care into the search box for calendars, resources, worship materials and more.

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.