



CARING FOR CREATION

Caring for our earth is a joyful, healthy practice rooted in the deepest ethical principles of our faith traditions. And, this practice can help save your community some money!

“From Buddhism to Christianity to Hinduism to Islam, various faiths acknowledge the need for environmental stewardship and their holy texts urge adherents to be caretakers of the Earth and its biodiversity.”

– UN Environment Programme, 2019

WHERE TO LEARN MORE



Visit our site by typing the address into your browser or scanning the QR code below. We've got concrete tips and strategies for greening your church, mosque, temple, or spiritual home for every level of interest. You can also find additional links to plans various congregations have already put into place for environmental stewardship as well as other resources.

world.350.org/pittsburgh/greening-your-house-of-worship



350 Pittsburgh is a Pittsburgh-based all volunteer non-profit focused on combating the climate crisis with an environmental justice ethic. We are affiliated with 350.org, and are a project of the Thomas Merton Center. We would be delighted to talk with you about greening your house of worship. You can email us at 350pittsburgh@gmail.com.



GREENING YOUR HOUSE OF WORSHIP

“A spiritual voice is urgently needed to underline the fact that global warming is already causing human anguish and mortality in our nation and abroad, and much more will occur in the future without rapid action.”

– Bill McKibben

CREATING A GREEN TEAM

Working on sustainability can engage many different members of your community and be a practice that builds fellowship. Forming a “Green Team” of enthusiastic volunteers is a great way to start. Talk with your spiritual directors, your board, committees, and your congregation to find allies. Keep everyone in the loop. This is a great way to get youth involved!

You can get started by exploring your current setting: walk through your church, mosque, or temple and its grounds examining lighting, building insulation, office practices, kitchen and food service, heating and cooling, water use and landscaping. Acknowledge and give thanks for any positive steps that have already been taken!



SOME LOCAL EXAMPLES



Valley View Church in Garfield has installed a solar array.



The Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills is cultivating a Hunger Garden

A FEW QUICK TIPS

Here are some simple ideas to get you started!

Lighting: Post reminders where appropriate for people to turn off lights when not in use. Consider LED bulbs.

Office: Use paper with a high percentage recycled content and recycle your waste paper.

Windows/Walls/Roof: Caulk or install weather stripping any place that walls allow in outside air.

Kitchen: Use real dishes, silverware, and tablecloths. Congregants sometimes have extra sets that they are willing to donate. Thrift shops are overflowing with these items.

Water: Reduce the temperature of your hot water heater especially if the kitchen is not in daily use.

See our full list of tips online.