

- Create and follow an ethical-earth friendly investment policy for savings
- Use environmentally friendly cleaning materials & paint
- Purchase recycled paper and envelopes (to close the loop)
- Purchase fair trade products (e.g. coffee)
- Use local suppliers where possible – Community Supported Agriculture, Farmers’ Market (promoting a sustainable local economy and reducing transportation)
- Work to end use of disposable products (goal – smaller trash bins, more recycling bins, etc.)

Catering

- Use real-reusable dishes (not disposable cups and plates)
- Cloth napkins and cleaning cloths (not paper towels – napkins)
- Use farmers markets and other local suppliers (to promote local economy and reduce food miles)

Reduce Waste / Reuse / Recycle

- Collection facilities for recycling items that church members, building users or local community can patronize (e.g. paper, cans, glasses, stamps, printer cartridges, clothes, shoes, foil)
- “Yard” sales to raise funds, recycle goods and promote the availability of goods at affordable prices

Energy- heating and light

BEGIN WITH AN Energy Audit

THEN --

- Monitor energy consumption regularly (monthly) to check trends
- Switch to ‘green’ electricity (electricity from renewable sources – for example, Xcel Energy’s ‘wind source’)
- Annual maintenance of HVAC system
- Choose appropriate sized rooms for activities
- Timetable meetings to minimize heating use
- Heating system with timer and thermostatic controls
- Purchase of one or more Energy Star appliances – create and follow a plan that replaces older inefficient appliances with energy star appliances (suggest at least one per year)
- Annual maintenance of current HVAC system
- Prepare and follow a plan for replacing or refurbishing HVAC older than ten/fifteen years
- Systems

Insulate windows and doors to reduce heat loss

Install appropriate levels of insulation where none exists – or increase insulation levels where possible and appropriate.

Clean windows to maximize natural light -- Replace cracked or broken windowpanes

Establish and help people follow building policies that encourage users to switch off unnecessary lights

Office Policies that do not leave copiers, computers, etc. on Standby

Media policies that unplug televisions, etc.

Update lighting options:

Install CFLs (Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs; please dispose of properly)

Install LED Exit Signs - LED exit signs will reduce carbon emissions by more than 5,000 pounds and save hundreds of dollars each year!

Consider LED lighting in areas

Install Occupancy Sensors - Occupancy sensors in the right locations at your church can significantly reduce the energy your congregation uses (these devices typically pay for themselves in only 6 months to 5 years).

Water

Check water outlets – fix drips and leaks

Install water-saving devices e.g. dual flush toilets and low spray flow or auto turn-off faucets.

Rain Barrels and similar points for collecting rainfall from down pipes for use in garden

Building maintenance, remodeling, new construction

Choose timber from sustainably managed forests, and reclaimed materials where appropriate

Follow the most Eco-Friendly building practices available.

Recycle used building materials when remodeling.

Public Policy Advocacy / Citizen Action

Letter writing

Calling legislators

Meeting w/legislators

Participating in rallies/events at the Capitol

MN Energy Challenge

Selling of light bulbs, green power

Eco fairs, carpooling, etc.
Other advocacy action

Engaging staff, clergy, the worship team, the CE program

Meetings with staff/clergy

Sermons given on global warming or stewardship of the earth

Sermons/prayers on global warming or creation care themes
included in your worship service

Promote Earthwise events and activities in announcements, bulletins,
and newsletters

Earth day celebration –

Earth stewardship worship themes

CE program – adult

CE program – Sunday school

Other means of engagement

Education outreach (programs for the community)

Speaker

Movie showing

Forum or workshop

Engaging youth groups

Other outreach efforts

Involvement in community events

Other campaigns or actions

Sources –

1. Eco-congregation (England & Wales) is a project of A Rocha UK,
13 Avenue Rd, Southall, Middlesex UB1 3BL Registered Charity
1089276
2. Congregations Caring for Creation / MN Interfaith Power and Light
Congregational Activity Report
3. Eco-Justice Program office of the National Council of Churches
(http://www.nccecojustice.org/crc_congregations.php)