



Holy Grounds

A Checklist for Responsible Stewardship of Campgrounds and Congregations

"We join with God as stewards of care and hope for all creation!"

- Community of Christ Enduring Principle of Sacredness of Creation

adapted from www.webofcreation.org

Section 1	✓	Worship
1		Decorate with living plants and flowers that can be kept or replanted
2		Keep living plants or trees in the sanctuary to purify the air & be fellow "worshippers"
3		Use beeswax or electric candles rather than (oil-based) paraffin wax candles
4		Use organic, locally-made juice for communion
5		Use whole grain, organic, locally-made bread for communion
6		Provide re-usable glasses (not plastic) for communion (or try intinction)
7		Wash communion trays and glasses with eco-friendly dish washing detergent
8		Limit or eliminate use of paper bulletins
9		Use post-consumer/recycled paper for handouts
10		Place a basket near each exit for recycling worship materials
11		Consider the origin of linens and other worship décor and materials
12		Use outside light (sunlight) where feasible
13		Use outside air and fans instead of air conditioning where feasible
14		Worship outside in nature when possible
15		Provide a container for safe disposal of batteries from microphones, etc.
16		Purchase fair trade palm fronds for Palm Sunday
17		Use a live Christmas tree and then plant it on the property
18		Use green decorations for holidays and special occasions
19		Regularly focus on Sacredness of Creation in worships, sermons, and education. Discuss specific actions and challenges. Plan a series and follow up.
Section 2	✓	Office
1		Use post-consumer/recycled paper
2		Create and share paper use guidelines to limit use/efficiently re-use
3		Recycle paper and ink cartridges
4		Properly dispose of batteries and electronics (computers/printers/copiers/TVs)
5		Limit paper mailings/use email where possible
6		Unplug electronics (computers/coffee makers/microwaves/etc.) when not in use
7		Provide fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate
8		Provide healthy snacks
9		Purchase efficient Energy Star electric appliances when replacing appliances
10		Cut down on junk mail by notifying senders and cancelling subscriptions
11		Bring plants to the office for beauty and to purify the air
12		Use refillable/recycled ink and toner cartridges
13		Limit the number of copies for use by groups
14		Use white or pastel colored paper. Bright colors do not recycle



Section 3	✓	Classrooms
1		For arts and crafts projects, avoid craft foam products and wax (oil-based) crayons
2		Limit photocopies of material
3		Use post-consumer/recycled paper
4		Use white or pastel colored paper. Bright colors do not recycle
5		Provide a recycle bin in each classroom
Section 4	✓	Dining Halls, Fellowship Halls, and Kitchens
1		Eliminate Styrofoam, plastic cups, and disposable/single use products
2		Provide re-usable mugs for coffee and tea
3		Encourage people to bring their own "mess kit" (plate, cup, utensils) to meals
4		Provide reusable ceramic plates and cups, glasses, and stainless-steel utensils
5		Purchase efficient Energy Star electric dish washers and other appliances
6		Use homemade, nontoxic, natural cleaning products (vinegar, baking soda, etc.)
7		If you cannot make/use natural cleaning products, purchase eco-friendly ones
8		Provide healthy/organic/locally grown food items for snacks and meals
9		Provide fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate
10		Minimize waste from paper/plastic packaging or use biodegradable options
11		Encourage guests to minimize food waste (weigh waste daily-make it a competition!)
12		Share leftover food
13		Compost food waste
14		Consider cloth napkins and kitchen towels (is there a member who would launder?)
15		If cloth napkins/towels are not feasible, use post-consumer/recycled paper products
16		Establish and post guidelines for outside groups using the facility
17		Avoid running water unnecessarily
18		Turn out lights when not needed
19		Unplug electronics (microwave, mixer, coffee maker, etc.) when not in use
20		Get rid of soda machines. If you must have soda, use a refrigerator honor system
21		For dishwashing and laundering, establish sign-ups or teams, rotate responsibilities, or take a collection each time to pay someone in need of the work
Section 5	✓	Energy Usage: Electricity and Heating
1		Replace all incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs
2		Retrofit fluorescent lighting and replace bulbs with the most efficient available
3		Install electric timers on indoor and outdoor lights. Use motion-sensitive lights
4		Avoid high energy halogen lights
5		Use solar panels for exterior lighting and signage
6		Annually inspect, adjust, and clean all heating and air conditioning systems
7		Remove obstacles from vents and registers
8		Moderate heat and AC throughout building to times and areas of use
9		Use ceiling fans for cooling
10		Raise the thermostat for cooling in summer. Lower it in winter.
11		Fix leaky faucets
12		Insulate hot water pipes and water heater.



13		Consider tankless water heaters where possible
14		Purchase high-efficiency Energy Star appliances
15		Annually inspect and seal air leaks in doors, windows, and other common gaps
16		Insulate walls and ceilings
17		Purchase energy-efficient windows
18		Use dishwasher only when full
19		Limit meetings to certain times to minimize energy consumption
20		Get off the grid with renewable energy: solar, geothermal, wind, etc.
21		Consider what it would take to eliminate the use of fossil fuels and develop a plan
22		Do an energy audit to determine the facility's carbon footprint. Develop an aggressive but realistic plan to reduce it by a specified % over the next 5 years
Section 6	✓	Paper and Wood Products
1		Establish and post guidelines for paper use for office use, education, and worship
2		Use post-consumer/recycled paper and envelopes for all uses
3		Use recycled paper products in kitchens and bathrooms
4		Brainstorm ways to reduce paper use in office, education, and worship
5		Provide recycle bins in as many locations as possible
6		Cut down on junk mail by notifying senders and cancelling subscriptions
7		When purchasing wood products (furniture, flooring, etc.) use only certified wood
8		Plant local native trees on church property, at members' homes and businesses, and in the community
Section 7	✓	Water Use
<i>Kitchen</i>		
1		Repair leaky faucets
2		Do not leave faucets running while doing other tasks
3		Use dishwasher only when full
4		Do not contaminate water. Use eco-friendly detergents and cleansers
5		Eliminate use of garbage disposals and compost food waste instead
6		Install low-flow (aerator) faucets and dish sprayers
7		Insulate hot water pipes
<i>Bathrooms</i>		
1		Replace automatic flush systems with sensor, use-based flush systems
2		Install dual flush toilets
3		Use hand-motion sensors on faucets
4		Annually inspect and repair leaky faucets and toilets
5		Install low-flush or composting toilets
6		Install low-flow (aerator) faucets
7		Insulate hot water pipes
<i>Drinking Fountains</i>		
1		Eliminate constantly running drinking fountains
2		Annually inspect and repair leaking fountains



3		Install water bottle filling stations and encourage guests to bring reusable bottles
<i>Outdoors</i>		
1		Landscape with native plants and grasses that require little or no added water
2		Restore an unused lot to its natural state - prairie, wildflower meadow, forest?
3		Install rain gardens to absorb runoff
4		Landscape to avoid runoff. Avoid bare areas
5		Use a mulching mower
6		Mulch trees, shrubs, flowers, and gardens
7		Eliminate or minimize the use of pesticides, herbicides, and toxic fertilizers
8		Use a rain barrel to collect for watering
9		Use down spouts to distribute water for watering plants and absorption
10		Install a roof-top garden
11		Install a grey water system for watering lawn and plants
12		Avoid lawns whenever possible
13		If you must have a lawn, limit watering. Water at dusk or dawn, Look into using grey water or recycled water. Do not water during droughts.
14		Plant local native trees
<i>Parking</i>		
1		Install a permeable surface for parking and walking areas
2		Limit the size of paved surfaces. Better yet, replace with wood chips or gravel
3		Provide spaces in the parking area for trees and ground absorption
Section 8	✓	Cleaning Products
1		Use homemade, nontoxic, natural cleaning products (vinegar, baking soda, etc.)
2		If you cannot make/use natural cleaning products, purchase eco-friendly ones
3		Use eco-friendly cleansers for restrooms, kitchen, dining areas, and other surfaces
4		Use eco-friendly detergents/soaps/cleaners for hands, dishes and windows
5		Use eco-friendly cleaners/shampoos for carpets, tile, and hardwood floors
6		Use eco-friendly waxing products for floors
7		Use eco-friendly products for cleaning church vehicles
8		Use eco-friendly detergents for laundering cloth napkins, towels, and linens
9		If you provide guests with shampoo, conditioner, lotion, or soap, supply eco-friendly
Section 9	✓	Food
1		Provide healthy, unprocessed food for snacks and meals
2		Purchase organic, locally grown food
3		Purchase Fair Trade products where possible
4		Educate members and guests about the environmental impact of meat
5		Observe Meatless Mondays
6		Have a vegetarian potluck
7		Sponsor a world hunger meal of beans and rice or other solidarity food/portion sizes
8		Plant a community garden. Share your produce with local food banks
9		Become a drop off point for CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). Encourage members to participate



Section 10	✓	Transportation
1		Install bike racks. Encourage walking when possible
2		Post/provide information about public transportation in the area
3		Organize car pools for camps and events
4		Consider buying or renting a van to transport people to camps and events
5		Encourage campground and church employees to use fuel-efficient vehicles
6		Designate regular car-free Sundays
7		Have someone check tire pressure of the cars in the parking lot & add air if needed
8		Install an EV (electric vehicle) charging station. You may need more than one.
Section 11	✓	Indoor Air Quality
1		Test for asbestos, lead, formaldehyde, and radon
2		Annually inspect for and address issues of mold, mildew, bacteria, and dust mites
3		Provide open windows for fresh air circulation
4		Keep living plants and trees indoors to purify the air and add beauty
5		Avoid volatile organic compounds from certain cleaning products, furnishings, fabrics, carpets, and paints
Section 12	✓	Nature Inside and Out
1		Add living plants and trees in both indoor and outside gathering spaces such as near entrances, windows, altars, baptismal fonts, offices, fellowship halls, etc.
2		Provide/post information about the local natural habitat and original inhabitants
3		Look for ways to bring life indoors
4		Create an indoor herb garden
5		Create an outdoor worship space, prayer and meditation garden, or labyrinth
6		Create a tree sanctuary or memorial garden with shaded benches
7		Be creative about the planting of trees, shrubbery, ground cover, and flowers
8		Restore an unused lot to its natural state - prairie, wildflower meadow, forest?
9		Encourage and use memorial funds/gifts to dedicate trees and natural spaces
Section 13	✓	Recycling and Waste
1		Research the recycling systems in your area. Aim for 100% recycling
2		Assess what you buy and the packaging involved. Avoid Styrofoam
3		Consider reuse as the first option
4		Recycle office paper (after using both sides). Recycle newspaper and other paper
5		Recycle glass, plastic, tin cans, and aluminum
6		Eliminate the use of plastic bags for garbage, or use biodegradable ones
7		Compost food and yard waste
8		Assess the site's waste stream from start to finish for possible improvements
9		Do a trash audit
10		Post clear recycling info and make recycle bins easily available
11		Provide take-home recycling information for home use including disposal of toxics
12		Establish a convenient collection center onsite for cell phones, printer cartridges, batteries, eyeglasses, plastic bags, gym shoes, etc.