

Congregational Green Assessment

This assessment is crafted to provide green teams with a detailed analysis of how your congregation integrates creation care into all aspects of community life. By examining practices across worship, education, spiritual, and pastoral care, buildings and grounds, community outreach, and justice and advocacy, you'll gain valuable insights to shape a strategic climate action plan and enhance your environmental stewardship.

Instructions:

- 1. Evaluation:** Utilize this tool to systematically assess your congregation's practices in key areas: worship, education, spiritual and pastoral care, buildings and grounds, community outreach, and justice and advocacy.
- 2. Rate Each Practice:** Assign a rating for each practice on a scale from 0 to 5, where 0 means no integration of the practice and 5 indicates full integration into congregation life.
- 3. Review + Plan:** Calculate the scores to identify strengths and areas for improvement. Use this data to discuss and prioritize actions for your strategic plan for climate action and creation care.

Area	Description	Rating
Worship: Ritualize creation in worship	Incorporates creation care themes into prayers, litanies, and sermons consistently.	
	Host special annual worship services like Tu BiShvat, Earth Day, and the Season of Creation.	
	Utilizes eco-friendly practices in worship (eco-palms, plants, flowers, candles, communion ware).	
	Features eco-celebrations and tips in bulletins, announcements, etc.	
	Regularly conducts worship services outdoors.	
	Incorporates elements of nature indoors, such as water features and natural imagery.	
	Worship Rating:	

<p>Education: Creation + climate are regularly studied</p>	Have trained Blessed Tomorrow Climate Ambassadors in the congregation.	
	Conducts book studies and educational series on creation care and climate issues.	
	Includes climate justice themes through guest speakers and sermon series.	
	Hosts events focused on climate awareness and creation care.	
	Actively participates in environmental advocacy efforts.	
	Involves children and youth in eco-centric programs like VBS, curriculum, field trips, gardening.	
	Promotes outdoor experiences like hikes, canoeing, biking, camping.	
	Education Rating:	
<p>Spiritual + Pastoral Care: Mental Impacts of Climate Change</p>	Raises awareness and provides resources and support around mental health impacts, including eco-grief from climate change.	
	Supports mental health needs related to climate (children and youth, climate anxiety, grief care).	
	Increases resilience by preparing for disaster event care for members.	
	Fosters relationships with neighbors, community leaders, and other congregations.	
	Hosts support groups for congregation and community.	
	Facilitates contemplative practices and worship experiences.	
	Encourages time spent in outdoor spiritual activities.	
	Spiritual + Pastoral Care Rating:	

Consumption: Sustainable and Ethical Practices	Reduces or eliminates the use of toxic substances in cleaning products, paints, carpets/rugs, deodorizers.	
	Buys coffee, tea, chocolate, and other products from fair trade sources, such as Equal Exchange.	
	Sources produce directly from local farmers to support the local economy and reduce transportation impacts.	
	Focuses on reducing single-use products, especially plastics, using compostable or recyclable items.	
	Advocates for reduced consumption levels, emphasizing digital over paper communications.	
	Offers vegetarian and vegan options at events and promotes meatless meals.	
	Consumption Rating:	
Buildings: Actions to lower dependence on coal, gas, oil	Completed an energy audit to identify opportunities for improvement and potential savings.	
	Implements building use policy around energy consumption for members and outside groups.	
	Reduces energy consumption (reminders, sensors, insulation, programmable thermostats).	
	Implements energy-saving actions (LED lights, Energy Star appliances, renewable energy).	
	Uses renewable energy or has taken steps toward wind, solar, geothermal energy.	
	Has a disaster preparedness plan in place.	
	Reviews disaster preparedness plan annually.	
	Has a recycling program.	
	Hosts a clothing closet.	
	Buildings Rating:	

Grounds: Support conservation and restoration	Hosts or participates in local farmers' markets.	
	Encourages cycling by installing bike racks.	
	Reduced lawn size and removed invasive plants.	
	Plants native plants and trees (protect and care, knowledge of, relationship to, additional plantings).	
	Implements a composting program for organic waste.	
	Eliminates the use of toxic chemicals in lawn and garden care.	
	Has a gardening program (vegetable, herbs, pollinator).	
	Implements systems to reduce water use and support natural water systems (watershed, rain barrels, water garden)	
	Supports animal husbandry (bees, chickens, goats) and Wildlife (pollinators, birds, etc).	
Grounds Rating:		
TOTAL RATING:		