



# Green Steps for Your Church

- Write a statement about your care for creation as a church. Be sure to include a biblical statement that lifts up God's call for us to be good stewards of the earth.
- Have the Stewardship Committee or a special task force brainstorm unique ideas for being green for your church specifically.
- Go online and take a quiz estimating your church's environmental footprint and where you can save on energy and water. Some utilities companies will do an energy audit, so your church may want to investigate this too.
- Have a member suggestion box for ways to be more green. Put these ideas in place if they are at all feasible.
- Ask children's Sunday school classes to make posters about God's creation and how we are to take care of it. Post these around the church. If there are many of them, circulate the posters to keep the message fresh.
- Recycle your bulletins. Have clearly labeled bins in convenient places so the bulletins can be dropped in easily.
- Recycle food and drink containers. Again, have bins clearly labeled and in locations near the kitchen and vending machines.
- Use paper goods that are made with recycled materials or use plates and cutlery that can be washed in a dishwasher.
- Have your building committee regularly check to make sure that the boiler, fans, and pumps are operating efficiently.
- Replace bulbs with fluorescent bulbs or those that are high efficiency.
- Clean light fixtures as a part of your regular church clean up day.
- Use LED lights in all exit signs.
- Use double pane windows when building or replace as needed.
- Plug holes and caulk windows to make your building more efficient.
- Turn off lights and machines when they are not in use.
- Turn off the light in vending machines.
- Use cleaning supplies that are environmentally safe.
- Proof all documents on your computer to reduce the use of paper.
- Minimize packaging waste.
- Put up a peg board and have people bring a mug or glass from home to use for coffee or tea each Sunday.
- Update your church's mailing lists and send email newsletters if possible.
- Compost food waste from the kitchen. You can set up a covered compost bin in an inconspicuous place on the church property; then use the compost on plants.
- Use mulch on plants and trees to retain moisture.
- Establish environmental friendly guidelines for church purchases.
- Fix leaks in toilets, faucets and pipes right away.
- Use reusable wiping cloths instead of disposables.