WATER AND ELECTRICITY

Water is used in many rituals of blessing and cleansing in the Christian tradition. So it makes sense for us to take care by "*sister water who is useful, humble, precious and pure*" (Saint Francis of Assisi). We should also save electricity, a precious resource. That often originates in water power.

☺	😐	☹	Action	Cost	Benefits
			1. Put up a small poster over the sink to remind people to turn the water off while soaping their hands.	**FREE**	Saves water
			2. **Water** gardens and lawns between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. or between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to reduce evaporation.	**FREE**	Saves water
			3. **Replace** annual plants with perennial shrubs which are more drought resistant.	VARIABLE	Saves water conserves humidity
			4. **Seed** the dryer patches of your lawn with drought resistant lawn seeds**,** or you could even choose thyme or clover.	$5-$10 bag of seeds	Beautifies your lawn, easy care
			5. **Put reminders** near light switches to encourage people to turn off the lights when not in use.	**FREE**	Reduces electricity consumption stays humid
			6. **Allow entry** of natural light by opening the blinds and by keeping windows clean.	**FREE**	Reduced electricity consumption.
			7. **Reverse** ceiling fans to reuse hot air.	A few pennies for the use of the ceiling fan	Seuss a hundred dollars of heating costs.
			8. **Replace** standard light bulbs with LED's. Your electric company may offer savings coupons.	$3-$10 each. They last 10 times longer.	$^1/_4$ to $^1/_{20}$ of consumption of regular bulb

First objective: Time

Coordinate meetings so that several are held the same day during the winter season. This may contribute to lower energy costs and also reduce the number of days energy is required/consumed.

Second objective: Space

Organize activities according to the space required by the number of people. For instance, it is not necessary for a small Bible study group to hold their meeting in the large sanctuary.

TRANSPORTATION

Reduce pollution and build a sense of togetherness in the faith community.

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☺	😐	☹	Action	Cost	Benefits
			1. **Organize** carpooling to and from the Sunday service. **Match** people from the same neighbourhood.	**FREE**	Increases participation service and community bonding
			2. **Install** bike racks**.**	$150	Healthy exercise and no pollution.
			3. **Put up** signs to discourage idling (letting the car engine run when the car is stationary).	**FREE** in certain cities	Less noise, clean air, saves gas.

ACTIVITIES

Some faith communities organize environmental action that reduces the ecological footprint of the neighborhood. At the conclusion of an activity it is sometimes possible to calculate the positive impact on Creation. It is good to pray and talk about the creation of God, but this faith must also bear visible fruits. *"In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit."* (Matthew 7:17)

Visit the "Activities" section of our website to discover meaningful intergenerational activities to use in creating inspirations ecological programs in your faith community live in a Christian community. Here are a few:

Cleaning a Park near the Church

During this activity, the faith community helps reduce the environmental footprint of its neighborhood by picking up trash in a park.

- Introduction to the activity in the church
- Cleaning the park
- Findings of waste collected
- Conclusion by a prayer
- Closure with a prayer

Car Free Sunday

Through this activity, the faith community will have helped to alleviate the detriments of car use (air pollution, cost of gasoline, overcrowded parking, etc.).

- Accompany and inform the community before Car Free Sunday
- Introduction to the activity in the church
- Prayer Service
- Activities (discussion / animation) per age group

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Download the outlines of these activities from the *Green Churches* website.

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