

GREENING THE CHURCH  
Part II (KC) July 1, 2008

Has your church appointed an Earth Care Team yet? Many people of faith see care of the environment as one of the church's most pressing spiritual and moral concerns. Escalating energy and food prices have made conservation of natural resources even more imperative. Here are a few more ideas your church might consider in being responsible stewards of the earth. In addition, **MONEY WASTED AT CHURCH IS MONEY OUT OF THE COLLECTION PLATE.** Do we really want use God's money for waste?

11. Purchase biodegradable garbage bags. Traditionally-made plastic bags take up to 1,000 years to decompose. How many more garbage dumps can we afford? Not to mention that dumps are usually in poorer neighborhoods and create a justice issue.
12. Use rags for cleaning purposes. Wash and reuse. Do what we did before paper towels!
13. A mixture of one part white vinegar and two parts water can be an adequate cleaner for most routine cleaning jobs. Keep refilling the same spray bottle and avoid the expensive cleaners on the market and keep more plastic bottles out of the dump. A mixture of vinegar and water is a great window cleaner when the window is scrubbed and polished with newspapers.  
Baking soda in a shaker will serve as an inexpensive scrubbing agent for sinks, showers, etc.
14. Establish a Clean Plate Club for your church and home. Encourage people to take only what they will definitely eat. Do a collective weighing of leftovers and post the poundage wasted. Work toward "O" waste.
15. Replace old toilets with dual-flush toilets and use small flush for liquid waste only.
16. Avoid using harmful pesticides and chemicals on the plants and lawn. These harmful agents can eventually contaminate water supplies not to mention what they can do to the person applying the agents and to children playing on pesticide-treated grass.
17. Sponsor organic, locally-grown meals for church dinners. Avoid use of foods treated with pesticides and avoid waste of transportation energy and costs to bringing products from other states.
18. Install ceiling fans in safe areas to cost of air conditioning.
19. Install solar thermostatically-controlled attic fans. Removing hot air from the attic will significantly reduce air cooling costs.
20. Improve weather-stripping and caulking on windows and doors.