



Starting your Congregation's “Green Team”



Ed Cohen

Interfaith Alliance Indianapolis

Care for Creation Committee

www.interfaithindy.org

What We Will Cover

- Definitions
- 2 Possible Approaches
- 5 Steps to Success
- Resources

Definitions

Creation

All that is alive now

All that will live in the future

All that makes life possible

(Air, Seas, Waters and Land)

- No connection to Creationism

Definitions

Creation Care - formal definition:

- Facing pollution, environmental degradation and depletion.
- Includes moderation in lifestyle, living sustainably with the land, and living out the biblical ethics of justice, mercy and truth

Definitions

Creation Care Congregations –
Congregations who address environmental stewardship and issues of social justice.

Same as:

- Green Congregations
- Eco-Justice
- Green Sanctuary

Definitions

Green Teams

- The group which leads the Creation Care efforts.

Same as:

- Caring for Creation Group
- Green Ministry
- Earth Stewardship Team

2 Possible Approaches

1. On your own (the 5 Steps)
or
2. Follow prepared guidance

5 Steps to a Green Team

1. This is a religious issue

- Bible based
- Educate yourself
- National leadership statements
- Local faith leader(s) input

5 Steps to a Green Team

2. Build support

- Identify possible allies
- Bring people around over time
- Begin with your faith & values
- Why this is personally important
- You are not a scientist
- This is not political!

5 Steps to a Green Team

3. Get the ball rolling

- Arrange a casual meeting
- Come Prepared
- Discuss concerns & hopes
- Offer a draft plan
- Probe for commitments

5 Steps to a Green Team

4. When ready, go for it!
 - Start your announcements
 - Form at the first opportunity
 - Get it in print
 - Need approval? Come prepared.

5 Steps to a Green Team

5. Action Options

- Be a part of seasonal and holidays
- Adult and youth education
- Host Living Simply discussions
- Address energy and water use
- Examine routine purchases
- Be visible, helpful and fun

5 Steps to a Green Team

Things to Consider

- It is Reduce, Reuse THEN Recycle
- Involve the neighborhood
- Climate Change – our greatest moral challenge

There May Be an Easier Way

The Green Sanctuary guide of the
Unitarian Universalist Church

Creation Care Resources

- Evangelical Environmental Network (EEN)
- NCCC – Eco Justice
- National Religious Partnership for the Environment (Interfaith)
- Unitarian Universalist Church