

Earth Care Corner



The Presbyterian Hunger Program officially certified St. Philip as a PC (USA) Earth Care Congregation in 2021.

This title is designed to recognize churches that make a commitment to take seriously God's call to care for the earth. The goal is to inspire churches to care for God's earth in a holistic way, through integrating earth care into all aspects of their church life and encourages others to follow their example. Our congregation affirmed an Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into our worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Some examples of earth-care projects we accomplished were as follows: building and maintaining our organic Community Garden which is reusing waste from community members through composting, providing recycling bins on Oak Terrace, leading two programs on reducing plastic in the environment and recycling, leading an earth-care focused worship service, and being mindful of environmentally friendly ways to maintain our building.

St. Philip will continue working on earth care projects in order to renew our certification for 2022!

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St. Philip was recertified as an **Earth Care Congregation** through February, 2022!

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If you are interested in earth care projects at St. Philip, contact Ruth Lucas at lucascr@me.com

Litany: Living in Harmony

(Adapted from Words for the Journey for Teens by Lisa Freemantle, Les Miller & Melinda Rapallo-Ferrara)

May we use the world's resources we need with love, humility, and thoughtfulness, without guilt, without fear, without waste.

All: May we live in harmony with the earth.

May we live together with animals with which we share this planet, being careful not to harm them or their habitats.

All: May we live in harmony with the earth.

May we respect the life in our lakes, rivers and oceans, using them with care and being mindful in our efforts not to pollute them.

All: May we live in harmony with the earth.

May we learn to live within our means, by reducing our waste and continuing to reuse and recycle all that we can.

All: May we live in harmony with the earth.

May we plan to leave the world in a state that all future generations will be able to enjoy, ensuring that it is filled with resources, life, and kept healthy and clean.

All: May we live in harmony with the earth.



Easy Green Actions at Home

1. Conserve Energy

- A. Set thermostat up or down at least one degree or more, depending on the season and when the house is occupied.
- B. Turn off lights when not in use.
- C. Use economy settings on your dishwasher.
- D. Wash clothes on warm and cold vs. hot water.
- E. Lower water heater thermostat to 120 degrees.
- F. Use efficient light bulbs, like LED.

2. Conserve Water

- A. Turn off water faucet while brushing teeth, scrubbing hands, etc.
- B. Save water while washing fruits, vegetables, rice, etc. then reuse to water plants. Cool and reuse water drained from cooking noodles, etc.
- C. Have an irrigation sprinkler system evaluation for leaks. (Free through the city of Hurst) <https://www.mysprinklereval.com/index.php?hurst>
- D. Water lawn smartly.
<https://waterisawesome.com/>

3. Ditch plastics and Styrofoam

- A. Use safe, reusable food containers such as glass, silicone, or metal.
- B. Refuse to buy plastic water bottles! REFILL glass or metal bottles.
- C. Urge restaurants to use compostable or recyclable materials for their take-out meal containers.
- D. Buy paper yard waste bags vs. plastic that never fully decomposes.

4. Recycle paper, cans, glass, and hard and soft plastics.

(Drop soft plastics off at local grocery stores.)

5. Environmentally friendly lawn and garden care

- A. Use paper yard waste bags vs. plastic.
- B. Collect your **leaves** and drop off at the back of our St. Philip Community Garden for composting. (*Not grass)
- C. Mulch your lawn while cutting the grass. (Adds nitrogen and moisture.)
- D. Use organic fertilizers and pesticides vs. chemicals (poisons our water.)
<https://www.thisoldhouse.com/lawns/21015220/tips-for-a-lush-organic-lawn>
- E. Create an outdoor compost pile.
<https://www.lawnstarter.com/blog/lawn-care-2/composting-101-how-to-start-your-first-compost-pile/>

Action Steps to reduce plastic use!

- REDUCE, REFUSE, REUSE, RECYCLE. Pledge to refuse single-use plastics (straws, plastic bags, etc.!).
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- Limit plastic use and opt for either paper or biodegradable, eco-friendly products.
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- Donate to charities that aim to campaign against plastic, like Plastic Oceans Foundation.
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- Invest in reusable bags, cups, bottles, and household items (single plastic bags take 1,000 years to degrade!).
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- Give up gum (synthetic rubber, aka plastic)
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- Opt for boxes of laundry detergent, rather than bottles.
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- Purchase foods like cereal, pasta, and rice from bulk bins and fill a reusable bag or container (you save \$\$ and unnecessary packaging!).
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- Reuse containers for storing leftovers.
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- Use a reusable mug or bottle for beverages, even when ordering from a to-go shop.
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- Bring your own containers instead of using Styrofoam leftover boxes from restaurants.
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- Use a razor with replaceable blades instead of a disposable razor.