Public Witness and Community Action
A Checklist for Congregations and Their Members

We must change not only our personal lifestyle but also the social forces and corporate systems in the economy and in the government that serve to degrade the ecological condition of our world and to advocate for life-giving, Earth-friendly laws, policies and public programs—by advocacy and action.

1. Learn about Ecological Factors
   • ___Environmental State of the world: “Restore Earth” at www.webofcreation.org.
   • ___Ecological Justice: Impact of the most vulnerable: www.ejrc.cau.edu; www.ecojusticenow.org
   • ___Environmental Racism: www.weact.org; www.ejnet.org
   • ___Sustainability: http://masonweb.wm.edu/sustainability/

2. Learn about Public Policies and Legislation:
   • ___local, regional, national, global
   • ___Department of natural resources
   • ___Laws on clean air, clean water, endangered species, among others.
   • ___Global conferences, treaties, and protocols.

3. Engage in Advocacy
   • ___Action alerts
   • ___Letters, phone calls, petitions, delegations, votes
   • ___Community organizing around a local environmental issue

4. Transform your community
   • ___Work to create Green city. See internet for many resources and programs.
   • ___Habitat restoration projects

5. Collaborate with other congregations and groups
   • ___Form ecumenical/interfaith green congregation program: www.racinegreencongregations.org.
   • ___Hold cooperative events for the community, such as an eco-fair or workshop
   • ___Sponsor a speaker or film as a community event.

6. Members active in the larger community
   • ___Joining environmental organizations
   • ___Purchase fair trade products. Use and sell fair trade products at church.
   • ___Participate in Community Supported Agriculture: www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/csa/

7. Public witness
   • ___Church property as witness: wind turbine, solar panels, community garden, orchard.
   • ___Write opinion articles and features for local news outlets
   • ___Give awards/ recognition to outstanding efforts in your community.

8. Investments
   • ___Invest in socially responsible sustainability funds
   • ___Advocate for eco-investments for congregations and community organizations.

Make these commitments part of your role as responsible citizen and of your religious vocation.