

Shareable Ideas for Caring for Creation

These suggested actions are for sharing in congregational newsletters, bulletins, websites, calendars, bulletin boards, and social media posts.

Share your story

- Share a favorite photo or video of God's creation and write why this particular place is important to you.
- We are called to love our neighbors. Post a story about how climate is impacting your area and neighbors.

Justice

- Righteousness in the bible is always connected to justice. Read the [Principles of Environmental Justice](#) and reflect on how to embody them in your faith community.
- Listen to Nazish Qureshi, founder of Muslim Climate Watch, teach about climate [injustice in Muslim communities](#) around the world.
- Learn from [Johari Abdul-Malik](#) about how right relationship with God calls us to righteous action for environmental justice.

Learn from Black Authors and Leaders

- Consider the relationship between social justice and creation justice. Watch this short video about [environmental racism](#) and consider environmental injustice impacts using this [poster](#).
- Read books by Black leaders. Check out "The Intersectional Environmentalist" by Leah Thomas, "Undrowned: Black Feminist Lessons from Marine Mammals" by Alexis Pauline Gumbs, and [any of these suggested books](#).
- Learn from current [Black climate leaders](#) by following them on social media and listen to podcasts like the [Black Earth Podcast](#).
- "... good news to the poor." - Isaiah 61:1 Learn how environmental racism has enabled "sacrifice zones" and how to join our neighbors in this fight: [How to build an equitable and just climate future](#)

Women's Environmental History

- Learn about women leading on climate. Some inspiring creation justice heroes include Celebrate the witness of women in Creation justice, including St. Brigid, St. Hildegard von Bingen, Rachel Carson, Sallie McFague, Rosemary Radford Ruether, Elizabeth Johnson, Annie Dillard, Wangari Maathai, Katharine Hayhoe, Robin Wall



Kimmerer, Greta Thunberg, Dr. Vandana Shiva, Sister Dorothy Stang, and Dr. Wangari Muta Maathai.

Indigenous Wisdom

- “They will rebuild the ancient ruins.” - Isaiah 61:4 As people of faith, we are called to make the injustices of colonization right. [Learn about the Indigenous peoples of the places where you reside.](#)
- Learn [Indigenous wisdom from Peter Brooks](#) and discuss with others in your congregation.

Deepen Knowledge

- Read [St. Francis’ Canticle of the Sun](#) and pick a native plant or animal species in your yard or neighborhood to build a relationship with as your relative. Give your plant or animal a name and pronoun. Learn about and observe her/him/them over time. Tell someone about your relative and connection to this species.
- Learn about the protected natural areas near you, such as state parks, city parks, and/or national parks, forests or marine sanctuaries. Visit with others and learn about the native plant and animal species that live there now and about those who are now extinct.
- What effect is climate change having/going to have in your community? Learn how your congregation can be a hub for climate resilience. [Download the Disaster Preparedness chek list at One Home One Future.](#)
- How can I be a part of faithful stewardship? What is mine to do? Listen to the BTS Center’s podcast Climate Changed to hear how we all have a part to play in caring for creation: bit.ly/btswhatsmine
- Learn about pollinators through honeybees as a ‘gateway pollinator’ to teach not only the wonder of honeybees but also that their story is part of a much larger ecological phenomenon. Learn more [here](#).
- Enjoy a movie night with the award-winning film All That Breathes about two brothers protecting the black kite, a majestic bird essential to New Delhi’s ecosystem. Stream now: allthatbreathes.com
- (Muslim) Read how McLean Islamic Center engaged their children in planting native plant gardens on their property: [bit.ly/ MICnativeplants](https://bit.ly/MICnativeplants), and find out which plants are native in your area: nwf.org/NativePlantFinder
- (Muslim) “All living beings praise Allah continuously,” teaches Sevim Kalyoncu, executive director of Green Muslims. “We human beings are the only creatures who sometimes forget.” Listen to her teaching: bit.ly/sevimteaching



- (Muslim) “Seeing the environment polluted should hurt us as much as a Qur’an dropped on the floor.” Learn from Dr. Tarek Elgawhary, Scholar-in-residence at ICCP, about our human role in creation: bit.ly/makingislam
- (Muslim) Take a virtual tour of an “EcoMosque” in Cambridge, England: bit.ly/CambridgeEcoMosque, and then use ISNA’s Green Masjid Guide for your community: bit.ly/GreenMasjidProject
- (Muslim) “Let there be a community among you that calls for what is good, urges what is right and forbids what is wrong...” (HQ 3:104) Join Al Mizan, a global Muslim covenant for the Earth: almizan.earth Listen to Kori Majeed reminisce on growing up on her grandmother’s farm and her connection to food from the land, and share guidance for planning greener Eid celebrations: islamandearth.com/ep2

Care for Our Water

- Record each time you use water in a 24 hour period and give thanks each time. Contemplate how important water is to your life and your faith and learn about caring for water with [these water resources](#).
- Plan a service learning trip around water. One option is Blue Theology, a mission station for education and service around God’s marine creation! Learn more at bluethology.com.
- Plan a beach, river, stream or lake clean-up! Record the trash you collect in the app “Save Our Shores” to contribute to data that monitors what types of trash are the biggest issue in your area.
- Whether you live in a land-locked state or right on the coast, everyone is connected to the ocean. Ecclesiastes 1:7 “All streams run to the sea.” [Research plastics](#) in our waterways and share your learnings with others.
- “Do unto those downstream,” teaches Wendell Berry, “as you’d have those upstream do unto you.” Learn how your community can protect waterways in your area and the watersheds [here](#).
- Water is life! On average, a family of four in the US uses 40 gallons of water per day just in the shower! Set a timer for 5 minutes and consider installing a low-flow shower head: bit.ly/epashowerheads

Gardening

- “God took the human and put them in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.” - Genesis 2:15. Plan a garden today and start some seeds to germinate indoors: bit.ly/gavictorygardens



- Start a community garden. Plant fruits, vegetables, herbs, and native pollinator plants! Start a congregation gardening club to help tend to the plants. Share the harvest with your neighbors!
- “You give them something to eat.” - Luke 9:31 Support the Black congregation Food Security Network and learn how congregations garden to care for the environment and feed their neighbors: blackcongregationfoodsecurity.net
- “As a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up.” - Isaiah 61:11 Welcome wildlife onto your congregation’s grounds with the National Wildlife Federation’s Sacred Grounds program: nwf.org/sacredgrounds
- Spring is a great time to start a composting program. Set one up in your own backyard or at your house of worship. Find out if your community has any type of composting program!
- Reduce your food waste by planning well and eating leftovers. Consider composting what’s left at home or research if you qualify to get table scraps picked up: CompostCrew.com , VeteranCompost.com , KeyCompost.com
- (Muslim) Learn how the Islamic Society of Frederick has embraced organic gardening for sadaqah on their grounds, and plant some veggies of your own, outside or in a pot: bit.ly/ISFGarden

Engage Youth + Adults

- Create a traditional Havdallah candle and learn the importance of the traditions around Havdallah while also understanding the importance of renewable resources like beeswax. Learn more [here](#).
- Create handmade recycled paper by blending paper scraps and then drying flat to make new paper. Learn more [here](#). Use the paper to make a card and give it to someone who inspires you.
- Host a scavenger hunt in celebration of Tu B’shvat, the New Year for the Trees. Through a variety of hands-on activities and exploration, participants will connect with the holiday through the lens of contemporary Jewish environmental values and will learn the importance of self-and earth care as a whole. Learn more [here](#).
- Harness the holiness of color through natural dyes from different parts of plants to create a self-dyed bookmark. Participants will learn about the symbolism and holiness associated with certain colors in Judaism, specifically the blue of tekhelet that is found in Tzitzit. Learn more [here](#).
- Learn firsthand about earthworms and their necessary place in decomposition and soil health as well as looking deeper into cycles that renew the earth. Look into ways



the participants can work towards reconnecting to those cycles that keep the planet healthy. Learn more [here](#).

- Make seed balls as a means to distribute seeds by encasing them in a mixture of clay and compost. This protects the seeds by preventing them from drying out in the sun, getting eaten by birds, or from blowing away. Follow the instructions on how to make them [here](#) and scatter them around your congregation and community.
- Eco Spa Balm making is a creative homestead craft where we explore the world of herbs, essential oils, and aromatherapy. We will learn how we can make products made of simple ingredients, which are found in nature. Each participant will decorate their own uniquely scented balm time and make a homemade lip balm/ hand moisturizer. Learn more [here](#).
- Make a Birdfeeder using a combination of recycled and natural materials to make a take-home birdfeeder for your local feathered friends! Learn more [here](#).
- (Muslim) "They were youths who believed in their Lord, and We advanced them in guidance." (HQ 18:13) Listen to a panel discussion with four Muslim youth climate activists from around the world: islamandearth.com/ep8

Faith & Food

- Learn more about food insecurity in your community. Volunteer at your local food pantry, your help is appreciated. Help fight hunger while reducing food waste!
- Learn where your food comes from. Shop at a farmer's market in your area and ask questions about the foods. Calculate your food footprint at eatlowcarbon.org.
- Learn what plants and trees are native to your area. Consider joining the [Wild Ones](#) chapter in your city or town.
- People of Faith have fasted for generations. Try eating vegetarian once a week or for a whole week or during a holy season. Check out Oxfam's Eat for Good resource online for other ways to use your fast to bless others: bit.ly/eat4good
- Coffee Hour - Consider your congregation's fellowship or coffee time. Champion using real mugs or eco-cups and support sustainable coffee farms through [Equal Exchange](#).
- Christianity & Food
 - Learn about the farmed animals industry from [Creaturekind](#) and consider making a [commitment](#) to eat less meat.
 - Check out the [Christian Food Movement](#) and contemplate how your diet is an expression of your faith.



- Read the Gospel of Luke and keep a running list of all the passages that include or center food or eating and reflect what you think that should mean for followers of Christ.
- Judaism & Food
 - Learn about the Jewish tradition's commentary on prohibitions against wanton waste, environmental stewardship, responsibility for community members in need, and responses to hunger and surplus [here](#).
 - Blessing Our Food Waste: What does our waste mean to us? Through the practice of a food waste ritual, we can find deep lessons in how we gather, cook, and scrap food. Learn more [here](#).
 - Teva in a Box: Pickling 101 - Pickling is one of the more common and varied forms of food preservation. This particular activity teaches lacto-fermentation pickling – an easy, fun and extremely health-friendly method of food preservation. Learn more [here](#).
 - Teva in a Box: Microgreens - Microgreens are mini versions of regular vegetables. The shoots are harvested at a young age, before they grow into fully matured plants. They have a wonderful flavor and are richer in nutrition than their larger counterparts. Best of all, microgreens are fun and easy to grow. Learn more [here](#).
 - How can we connect modern environmentalism to traditional Jewish faith? Learn more about the connection between Judaism and Food by reading and participating in workshop and engagement sessions written by [Sarah Rockford](#) and [Cole Siegel](#).
- Islam and Food
 - (Muslim) Fitrah Farms is producing pasture-raised organic halal meats in Orange, Virginia, along with eggs and produce. Learn about Muslim sustainable farming and order for delivery: FitrahFarms.com
 - (Muslim) Avoid meat at one or more iftars this week, and learn more about why some Muslims are choosing to eat a plant-based diet: bit.ly/plantbasedislam

Greening Our Practices

- Caring for creation includes responsibly disposing of electronics. Learn about and then [organize “e-cycling”](#) for your congregation to dispose of old phones, tablets, and computers responsibly.

- (Muslim) How could your masjid be greener? Find guides from ISNA: isna.net/isna-green-initiative, and from Umma for Earth: ummah4earth.org/en/greenmosques-initiative
- Transportation
 - Use or speak out in your community for active transportation, such as walking or biking. It is good for your body and spirit. Support bike lanes and sidewalks.
 - Use and support mass transportation and ride sharing.
 - Host an EV extravaganza at your house of worship. Invite EV owners and car dealerships to bring EVs so that people in your community can see and learn about EV's.
 - Keep your automobile in good working condition and regularly check your tire pressure. Low tire pressure means high energy/fuel consumption.
 - Fast for a month or season from Online Shopping, as it produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Support local businesses.

Greening Finances

- Care for creation and support clean energy by divesting from fossil fuels. Check out resources from [Green Faith](#) and [Third Act](#).
- Bank with a bank or credit union that aligns with your faith and values. Learn more from [GreenAmerica](#).
- Create or update your household budget today and consider adding support for creation care and climate justice work and organizations.
- (Muslim) Read the fatwa on fossil-fuel divestment by the Fiqh Council of North America (FCNA): bit.ly/fossilfatwa, and consider greening your finances: GreenAmerica.org/divest-reinvest

Learn About Funding Opportunities

- "In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun." - Psalm 19:4 Weatherize your home and prevent heat (and money) from being wasted! Find project ideas and rebates: dcseu.com/homes
- Learn about Federal Funding for houses of worship for energy efficiency, renewable energy and more from [Interfaith Power and Light](#).
- (Muslim) Hear Ali Zaidi, White House Climate Advisor, share how the Inflation Reduction Act is addressing the climate crisis: bit.ly/ZaidionIRA, then look up how much your household can save: bit.ly/ra-iracalculator



Mobilize Support for Just Policies

- Leah Thomas writes, "we can't save the planet without uplifting the voices of its people, especially those most often unheard." What does this look like in your community? How can you help?
- Write To Your Elected Officials telling them why creation care and climate justice are important to you as a person of faith and ask them to support an environmental issue that you care about.
- Support the work of a Climate + Faith organization or support a local environmental initiative with your time and money.
- Attend a Town Hall Meeting - Are any environmental issues being discussed? Any ideas/issues you'd like to share with your community? What work needs to be done?
- Volunteer for a local environmental organization doing work that interests you and invite others to join you. Caring for creation requires the whole community.
- Vote your faith! We must use our voice to call for climate justice. Make a plan to vote and help ensure all have access to the ballot box. Learn more at [One Home One Future](#).

Take Action

- Explore and consider joining the [One Home One Future](#) campaign for ongoing support, trainings, events and community.
- Start a Creation Care Team at your house of worship. Gather and discuss how your congregation can be involved in caring for the earth. Learn together and get involved in local environmental causes.
- Go on a walk outside, pay attention to the trees, or the water, or a blade of grass. Take the time to notice and admire and pray for it all.
- "Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths."- Psalm 25:4 Take a mindful winter walk or walk in the rain or night walk. Contemplate the holiness of the experience.
- God is supporting our existence with each breath. Meditate by focusing on your breathing. Oxygen is gifted to us from plants and plankton in the sea. As you breathe, consider the interconnectedness of creation.
- Learn about, and if possible attend a "congregation of the Wild" worship service at a nearby park, beach, or garden. Read Victoria Loorz's book, "Church of the Wild" and learn about the time of gathering, wondering, and admiring God's creation.
- (Muslim) "The world is sweet and green." (Sahih Muslim) Pray fajr outdoors today, on your own or join Green Muslims for a fajr hike led by Afnán Khairullah. Check greenmuslims.org or @green_muslims on Instagram for details.



- (Muslim) Hear the call to act to change the systems driving our climate crisis both as an individual duty (fard al-'ayn) and a communal obligation (fard kifayah):
bit.ly/GreenFaithIslamAndClimateJustice

Rest and Reflect

- How can you invite the practice of Sabbath into your life this season? Winter is a time of rest and renewal for the earth and for God's creatures, including us. How does winter reflect the Sabbath?
- As Wendell Berry writes, "There are no unsacred places. There are only sacred places and desecrated places." Identify a place that is sacred to you. What makes it so? How can you care for that place?
- As Ayana Elizabeth Johnson writes, "we need to have a whole cultural shift, where it becomes our culture to take care of the Earth." How does the earth take care of you? How can you take care of the earth?
- Randy Woodley writes, "A society concerned with shalom will care for the most marginalized among them." How can you and your congregation community practice shalom?

Prayer and Study

- Host a creation-focused bible study! Scripture is full of nature verses, references, and metaphors. Check out [sacred texts](#) of many faiths at One Home One Future.
- "Speak to the earth and it shall teach thee. Ask the creatures of earth and sea for their wisdom" Job 12:8. What do the creatures teach you? What can we learn from creation?
- Write a Prayer for Creation of gratitude, protection, or lament. This could be a prayer about environmental injustice or climate change. It could be a gratitude prayer for a specific tree. It may help to write in an outdoor setting. Be creative.
- (Christian) Read Matthew 25:31–46 and consider how parts of Creation might be "the least of these. Share this with someone else. Pray: "God, show us how to honor and preserve your gift of Creation. Allow us to share as generously with each other as you have shared the beauty of the Earth with us. Amen."
- (Christian) Celebrate the Season of Creation from September 1st - October 4th. Find [Season of Creation resources](#) at One Home One Future.
- (Christian) Host a Blessing of the Animals service. Start by [watching](#) this animal blessing.

- (Christian) “Who then is the one who condemns? No one.” - Romans 8:34 The United Church of Christ has worked on environmental racism since the 80's. [Learn more](#) and incorporate anti-racism into your faith life.
- Pray: “In the rising and setting of the sun and the cycles of the seasons, in the patterns of the shining stars, we remember the goodness of God. Amen.”
- Listen to songs and hymns about Creation and Climate. [Find a list at One Home One Future.](#)

Lead a Book Study

- Whether with one other person or a group at your congregation, choose a book, read together and meet to discuss. [Find book suggestions at One Home One Future.](#)

Start a Climate Conversation

- Talk to someone about using [Dr. Katharine Hayhoe's guidance](#) for opening climate conversations.
- Learn how to talk about climate using the [5 Steps Guide](#)
- (Muslim) Read, study, and print this poster of the Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change to post in your masjid or at home as a reminder of our commitments: bit.ly/declarationposter

Transition to Clean Energy

- Heat Pumps, How could we heat and cool our buildings without causing harm? Heat pumps are a solution! Watch IPL's webinar on [Holy Heat Pumps](#), and learn more about incentives at [Rewiring America](#).
- Reduce energy through conservation and efficiency. Consider high efficiency appliances. Reduce phantom energy use by unplugging and turning off all appliances and electronics when they are not in use.
- Transition to renewable energy and get up to 30% back in rebates for congregations or on your taxes through the Inflation Reduction Act.
- Track your sustainability efforts with [Sustain Island Home](#)
- Take action using the [EPA Energy Star Action Workbook for Muslim Communities](#) and [engage with or initiate a solar community!](#)
- Is your home or congregation's stove burning methane gas? There is much evidence that gas stoves pollute our air indoors and our climate, [learn more here](#).
- Learn from [Beyond Gas DC](#) and [Masjid Muhammad](#) about the harms of gas-burning stoves and hear 14 year-old Ahmed testify to the DC Council.

- (Muslim) Bayinah Shaheed's home is powered by the sun! Go solar at home with Solar United Neighbors or Civic Works, or subscribe to community solar. Connect to all by watching our workshop: bit.ly/muslimsgosolar

Holidays

- Happy New Year! Start the year by choosing a "green" resolution that is meaningful to you. How can you make more eco-conscious choices this year? How can you care for creation in new or deeper ways?
- MLK Day - Find and attend a local/online event celebrating Dr. King's birthday or participate in an act of service! As he once wrote, "we aren't going to have peace on Earth until we recognize the basic fact of the interrelated structure of all reality."
- International Women's Day - Connect with and learn from the [All That We Can Save Project](#), built around the voices of 60 women at the forefront of climate work:
- Ramadan - "I will make [Abraham] very fruitful; I will make nations of you..." (Genesis 17:6) Pray for Muslim communities entering Ramadan tonight. How can we join our religious siblings to protect our common home?
- Ramadan - Ramadan mubarak! "To me, when you're walking in nature, you're walking in verses of the Qur'an." Hear [Green Muslims co-founder Sarah Jawaid](#) make the case for a Muslim environmental ethic.
- Ramadan - Fasting during the holy months can help us reject consumerism and a culture of wastefulness, writes [Nazish Qureshi of Muslim Climate Watch](#).
- Ramadan is our golden opportunity to make a shift towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly lifestyle. Download [Ummah for Earth's Eco-Conscious Ramadan Guide](#).
- Ramadan - Listen to [Sevim Kalyoncu of Green Muslims](#) speak about bringing God-consciousness to Ramadan.
- Ramadan - Read about how the Islamic Community Center of Potomac (ICCP) is going [zero-waste on Ramadan](#).
- Earth Hour - On March 22nd at 8:30 pm, join hundreds of millions of people around the world for [Earth Hour](#). Turn off all lights for one hour to commit to global climate action and more mindful energy use.
- Ash Wednesday - Read Isaiah 58:1-12. Consider what "rebuilding and raising up" might call you to as you care for the Earth.
- Lent - Challenge yourself to give up single-use plastics for Lent. You could also aim to eat less meat, drive less, or find ways to waste less water. If your congregation hosts a fish fry, encourage sustainable seafood options.

- Palm Sunday - Learn more about using [sustainable palms](#) for your worship. They help improve workers' living standards and protect forests in Mexico and Guatemala. Order by 3/1.
- Palm Sunday - Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem threatened the status quo and the safety of all those living under Roman rule (Mark 11:1-10). Discuss with others the role civil disobedience plays for people of faith.
- Good Friday - Confront the ways we have caused suffering in the world. As we remember the death of Jesus, let us acknowledge the suffering we have inflicted upon God's Creation. In our mourning, may we resolve to be healers and helpers. May we participate in the resurrection of our environment.
- Easter - Trade the plastic easter-eggs and chemical dyes for an eco-friendly Easter celebration. Try dyeing local/free range chicken eggs with dyes from beets, onions, and cabbages for a fun and natural holiday craft. For Easter baskets, buy fair trade chocolate, dried fruit, tea and coffee or small gifts made by women's cooperatives! Fair trade helps farmers.
- Easter - Read John 13:1-17, 31b-35. How can we love one another — and God's whole world — as Christ has loved us? Write down your commitment to show love to a part of Creation today.
- Easter - Every ecological success is a resurrection story! Find out which animals, plants, or ecosystems have been revived after environmental degradation.
- Pentecost - As we celebrate and imagine the holy spirit in the image of the dove, consider these words from Thomas Merton: "The sky is my prayer, the birds are my prayer, the wind in the trees is my prayer, for God is all in all."
- Passover - All are called to repair the earth. [Learn some Jewish teachings for climate action](#).
- First Day of Spring - Pay attention as buds appear on the trees, seedlings sprout, and animals are born. When you come across these signs of spring, say a blessing (aloud or silently) for spring.
- Earth Day Sunday - Celebrate Earth Day in your congregation using resources from [Creation Justice Ministries](#) and [Interfaith Power and Light](#). Write a sermon or give a talk for Earth Day Sunday! Lead a study for adults or youth. Go outside.
- Earth Day - This earth day, take a moment to reflect on this proverb: "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we have borrowed it from our children." What should this mean for our congregation?
- Endangered Species Day - Happy endangered species day! Learn about and celebrate [endangered plants and animals](#).

- June is Ocean Month! - What do you love about the ocean? This month, choose an ocean-related book to read, podcast to listen to, or documentary to watch.
- Halloween - Host a recycled Halloween party. Challenge your kids or adult guests to create a costume solely out of recycled items. Costumes can be eco-themed too (animals, bugs, recycle-monsters, native plant species, eco-heroes)!
- Indigenous Peoples' Month - Learn about the Indigenous people who lived on your land first in November. What is the name of that nation? How does the nation relate to the land and ecosystems? Practice acknowledging the original caretakers of the land where you live, work, and pray. Learn, pray, acknowledge, and stand in solidarity.
- Thanksgiving - This Thanksgiving, spend time learning about the indigenous history and the traditional ecological knowledge where you live. Begin your thanksgiving meal with a land acknowledgment of gratitude.
- Advent - The Advent Season celebrates the incarnation of Christ, born into our world. What does incarnation have to do with creation? Where do you encounter the divine?
- Christmas - What can you reuse this Christmas? Can you create decorations out of recycled materials? Sustainable gift ideas: beeswax wrap, reusable water bottles, vegetable seeds, metal straws, bamboo utensils, reusable cloth shopping bags.
- Christmas - If you're going Christmas tree shopping, choose a real tree over a plastic one! Tree farms help to sequester carbon and provide habitats for birds and other wildlife.
- Christmas - The Angel Gabriel proclaimed the birth of Jesus to Mary. Eco-feminist author [Rebecca Solnit](#) proclaims how to address climate change.