

Green The Church: Home & Church Toolkit.

Carroll Ministries, Green For All





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Greetings,

Hello Friends, Welcome to the Green the Church Home Toolkit. Here you will receive resources on how to become a better steward of the earth. For me, this journey began while in Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. It was the first time that professors and classmates alike challenged me regarding our Christian mandate to care for the earth.

I remember being convinced that even to litter openly or in private was to sin against God's created order. In *Genesis 1:26* it says that God gave humankind rule over everything that God created. I firmly believe that this rule or dominion as expressed in the *King James Version* is better translated as **stewardship**. Through this I have come to understand that as followers of Christ, we have a moral obligation to care for, respect, protect, and preserve our air, water, plants and animals—and the fellow humans who depend on them—in the best ways we know how.

Climate Change is a reality that all people, especially Christians, need to become better informed and engaged with. That's why I am calling all Christians to take their faith to another level by becoming "Climate Christians." Becoming a Climate Christian means you commit to taking action in your own life to stop climate change. It is our duty to be responsible for what we discard and how we discard it; for what we put into our bodies; and for the amount of pollution that we allow our neighbors to breathe. Together, we can tackle climate change, protect our communities, and be good stewards of this beautiful planet we all share.

With love & gratitude,
Ambrose Carroll

Pledge to Be a Climate Christian for yourself!

{I pledge allegiance to this Earth, God's holy creation. I will care, respect and protect all thing living things and energy sources that sustain my existence. I will encourage stewardship for all mankind.}

1) Basics on Going Green. Start Here!

Every little bit counts when it comes to protecting our air and water. An easy way to get started without feeling overwhelmed about saving the planet is by taking a close look at your own daily life and examine the ways you can conserve. Here are some simple steps you and your church can take that will make a big difference.

- Formulate a green committee at your church to identify ways to save energy and reduce waste.
- Go paperless. Switch from printed communications and reading material to online resources. Not only will you be saving trees and ink—you'll also save money that could be spent elsewhere.
- Unsubscribe from unsolicited magazines and catalogues and reduce junk mail. Websites that can help you get started are: *Catalogchoice.org* and *41pounds.org*
- Sign up to get e-statements for your bills online instead of in the mail.
- Print double-sided to conserve paper.
- Reconsider whether to print bulletins for church service. Many churches have switched over to sharing information with their congregations through a screen that helps everyone read from the same version of scripture and includes those who may not have a bible or a hymnal.
- Say the Climate Christian pledge as a part of your worship service.
- Encourage fellow congregants and friends from other denominations to sign up for Green The Church.

There are thousands of ways to make a difference and be a good steward of the planet. Here are some of the areas where you can have an impact:

- Food
- Water
- Health
- Energy
- Transportation
- Waste Management

FOOD

Psalms 104:14 – “He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth...”

- What’s good for our air and water is good for YOU.
- There is no better way to improve your health than by growing your own fruits and vegetables. When you grow your own food, you know exactly what’s going into your body—and you can save money and trips to the grocery store.
- Shop at Farmers Markets, where products are often fresher and cheaper than at grocery stores.
- When possible, eat organic produce grown without chemicals.

WATER

Psalms 65:9 -"You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it."

There are a lot of simple ways to save water at home and in your church building.

- All of those flushes can add up to nearly 20 gallons a day down the toilet. If you still have a standard toilet, which uses close to 3.5 gallons a flush, you can save by retrofitting or filling your tank with something that will displace some of that water, such as a brick.
- Use the dishwasher whenever possible. Energy Star dishwashers use about 4 gallons of water per load, and even standard machines use only about 6 gallons. Hand washing generally uses about 20 gallons of water each time.

- Replace lawns with drought-resistant plants. Find out more about landscaping and water conservation here: <http://wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to- conserve/landscape-watering-guide/>
- Avoid buying disposable plastic water bottles. Use reusable cups and bottles instead.

HEALTH

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body”.

- Use glass jars instead of plastic containers when possible as plastic often is made of chemicals that are hazardous to your health.
- Avoid using pesticides; they damage the life of your plants and end up in our water.
- Make your own cleaning supplies: The big secret: you can make very effective, non-toxic cleaning products whenever you need them. All you need are a few simple ingredients like baking soda, vinegar, lemon, and soap. Making your own cleaning products saves money, time, and packaging-not to mention your indoor air quality.
- Buy houseplants to help combat natural airborne toxins instead of using an air purifier. A few suggested plants are:
 - Gerbera Daisy Gerbera jamesonii- for bedrooms.
 - Dracaena deremensis- for bathrooms
 - English Ivy Hedera helix- for kitchen
 - Peace Lily Spathiphyllum-for Hallways.
 - Boston Fern Nephrolepis exaltata-for laundry rooms
 - Golden Pothos Epipremnum aureum- for attached garages.

ENERGY

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Corinthians 9:6 “The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully”.

- Use energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs: they last longer and will save you money.
- Unplug electronics when leave the house. It will save you cost in utilities.
- Use natural air from windows instead of using fans & air conditioners when possible.
- Use thermostats with energy efficient settings: they adapt to the temperature of the room and cool and heat accordingly without using unnecessary energy.
- Share spaces with other churches often. Not only will this build community, it will also help to save on utility costs.

TRANSPORTATION

Hebrews 6:12- We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

- Walk whenever you can: it’s good for your body, it saves fuel, and keeps pollution out of the air.
- Take public transportation as often as possible. It will save you money and will keep climate change pollution out of the air.
- Get around on your bike: It’s great for your body, and you can avoid traffic and waiting for buses and trains.
- Carpool often. You’ll save gas and cut down on pollution.