

Menu for Action | FOR BALTIMORE CONGREGATIONS

All congregations in Baltimore are encouraged to choose one or more of these actions to put their learning into action. Actions could also be incorporated into your religious education program.



Forming

1. Organize a spiritual outdoor experience/ nature walk
2. Host an environmental movie night
3. Host a workshop on the intersection of faith and environment
4. Offer a Creation Care study based upon your faith
5. Offer a sermon on environmental issues
6. Organize an environmental book study group
7. Organize an "Inspirational Tour" looking at existing Green projects
8. Host an educational event about one of Baltimore's most pressing issues
9. Host an educational event about bottled water
10. Educate about gardening and lawn care healthy for the environment

Going Forth

1. Involve other congregations, the neighborhood or general public in any Forming or Caring activities
2. Coordinate a community rain barrel workshop
3. Hold a native tree/plant training and sale
4. Spearhead and participate in multi-congregational storm drain stenciling /murals
5. Spearhead a multi-congregation stream cleanup block-by-block trash cleanup
6. Visit "Mr. Trash Wheel"
7. Spearhead an inspirational outdoor experience with other congregations or community
8. Take action to advocate for clean water. Contact your state or local representative and/or write a letter to the editor

Caring

1. Organize recycling at your congregation
2. Install rain barrels or rain garden
3. Organize and participate in a tree planting
4. Coordinate a congregational stream cleanup or trash pickup
5. Remove invasive plant species
6. Install a community garden on congregation grounds to benefit your congregants, or to donate the food
7. Get a professional water audit completed
8. Design conservation landscaping
9. Conduct an audit of chemicals at the congregation and properly dispose of them



For more information contact Bonnie Sorak at
bonnie@interfaithchesapeake.org
www.interfaithchesapeake.org 410-609-6952



Resource List for Menu of Actions - GOD'S WATER HEROES in Baltimore

FORMING

Items 1-8: Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake can assist you with any of the following:

1. Coordinate an outdoor experience/nature walk
2. Host a movie night for your congregation
3. Host a workshop on the intersection of faith and environment
4. Offer a Creation Care themed Bible Study
5. Offer a sermon on environmental issues
6. Organize an environmental book study group
7. Organize an "Inspirational Tour" looking at existing projects

8. Host an educational event about one of Baltimore's most pressing issues

<https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/FactSheets-Applications-Presentations> for any of the following:

- F.O.G . Fats, Oils, Grease - from the Pan to the Can
- Trash the Wipes
- Pet Waste
- Rat Prevention

9. Host an educational event about bottled water

View the video "Tapped" and encourage people to begin carrying their own water bottle.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_b0A3legAg

10. Educate about gardening and lawn care healthy for the environment

Contact: **Master Gardeners** <https://extension.umd.edu/news/photos/baltimore-city-master-gardeners> - <https://extension.umd.edu/mg>

Master Gardeners offer gardening help, landscape planning, workshops, and educational events.

CARING

1. Organize recycling at your congregation

How can our congregation participate in recycling?

Contact: <https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/recycling-services>

2. Install Rain Barrels, a Rain Garden or Cistern

Contact: **Blue Water Baltimore**

<https://www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/protect/create-a-rain-garden/>



3. Organize and participate in a tree Planting or host an "Arbor Day Every Day" Event

Where can we get trees to plant and learn how to plant them?

Contact: **Tree Baltimore** <http://www.treebaltimore.org/>

Offers free trees, arrange tree plantings, weed warrior (invasive species removal), tree keepers program.

Contact: **Blue Water Baltimore** <https://www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/restore/community-tree-plantings/>

Contact: **Baltimore Tree Trust**
<https://www.baltimoretreetrust.org>

Contact: **Baltimore Orchard Project**
<http://baltimoreorchardproject.civicworks.com/about-us/>

4. Schedule a stream clean up or block by block trash pickup

Contact: **Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay**

Register for a Project Clean Stream cleanup here:

<https://www.allianceforthebay.org/our-work/key-program-focuses/building-stewardship/project-clean-stream/>

Contact: **Baltimore Mayor's Spring Cleanup**

<https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/events/register-mayors-spring-cleanup>

5. Remove invasive species

Contact: **Baltimore Green Space**

<http://baltimoregreenspace.org/>

6. Install a community garden on church grounds to benefit your congregants, or to donate the food

Contact: **Master Gardeners** (contact information above)

Contact: **Black Church Food Security Network**

<http://www.blackchurchfoodsecurity.net/>

7. Get a professional water audit completed

Contact: **Blue Water Baltimore**

Ashley Traut, Senior Manager: atraut@bluewaterbaltimore.org, 410-254-1577 x 103

8. Design conservation landscaping

Contact: **Neighborhood Design Center**

<http://www.ndc-md.org/>

A nonprofit organization that facilitates the development of healthy, equitable neighborhoods through community-engaged design and planning services

9. Conduct an audit of chemicals at the congregation and properly dispose of them

Survey your congregation building and grounds for cleaning materials and lawn chemicals.

Properly dispose of them during household hazardous waste drop-off days. How many of these materials could be eliminated or changed to environmentally-friendly ones?



Contact: **Department of Public Works**

<https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/recycling-services>

GOING FORTH

1. Involve other congregations, the neighborhood or general public in any Forming or Caring activities

2. Coordinate a community rain barrel workshop

Host a community event that trains people how to install rain barrels on their property.

Contact: **Blue Water Baltimore**

<https://www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/protect/install-a-rain-barrel/>

3. Hold a native tree/plant training and sale

Contact: **Blue Water Baltimore** (with Herring Run Nursery)

<https://www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/herring-run-nursery/>

4. Spearhead multi-congregational storm drain stenciling/murals

Labels storm drains to inform public that water flowing into them goes to the nearest river or stream and does not go to a water treatment facility.

Contact: **Blue Water Baltimore**

<https://www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/protect/stencil-a-storm-drain/>

5. Spearhead multi-congregation stream cleanup/block-by-block trash cleanup

Contact: **Blue Water Baltimore**

<https://www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/restore/stream-cleanup/>

6. Visit "Mr. Trash Wheel"

Collects trash at the outflow of the Jones Falls watershed into Baltimore Harbor.

Contact: **Waterfront Partnership** info@waterfrontpartnership.org, 443-743-3308

<http://baltimorewaterfront.com/healthy-harbor/water-wheel/>

7. Spearhead a community outdoor field experience:

- **Patterson Park Audubon Center**

<http://pattersonpark.audubon.org/>

Bird-friendly habitat certification for congregation/home/school; wildlife gardening workshops; garden project facilitation; nature-themed children's programs; bird walks in city parks. baltimore@audubon.org and 410-558-2473

- **Masonville Cove**

<http://www.masonvillecove.org/>

Masonville Cove is 70 acres of water and 54 acres of wetlands, nature trails, and a protected bird sanctuary located in Baltimore. The sanctuary provides an opportunity for local residents and schoolchildren to connect with their natural



environment and participate in meaningful stewardship projects. Provides all kinds of nature programming for kids and adults.

- **Chesapeake Bay Foundation**

<http://www.cbf.org/events/bay-discovery-trips/bay-discovery-baltimore-harbor-trips.html>

Baltimore Harbor boat tours with hands-on experience with education about the challenges and solutions to pollution of local waterways which flow into the Harbor.

Other outdoor activities/ideas:

Parks & People

Unite Baltimore through parks. Has greening grants; park revitalization, seed exchanges, Fruit Tree Fair, composting and greening workshops.

<http://parksandpeople.org/>

National Aquarium

<http://www.aqua.org/>

Cylburn Arboretum

Unite Baltimore through parks. Has greening grants; park revitalization, seed exchanges, Fruit Tree Fair, composting and greening workshops.

<http://cylburn.org/>

8. Advocate: Take action for clean water

Contact your state or local representative and/or write a letter to the editor regarding specific environmental issues. IPC can help identify the issues and provide sample letters.

<http://www.interfaithchesapeake.org/advocacy>

Learn how your congregation reduce its Stormwater Fee

- Stormwater Fee Reduction for Religious/Non-profit organizations:
http://dpwapps.baltimorecity.gov/cleanwaterbaltimore/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Non_SFP-Stormwater-Guidance-Document.pdf
- Reduce the stormwater remediation fee your congregation pays on prayer and education space. IPC can help. Contact Bonnie Sorak at bonnie@interfaithchesapeake.org or call 443-799-0349

What can our congregation do to receive a discount on our stormwater fee?

- Register community clean-ups as stormwater participation events. The clean-up should be in the community (area around the congregation and not just on the grounds)
<https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/stormwater-fee/reducing-stormwater-fee>
- Good water habits <https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/be-part-solution>
- Energy savings/loans <https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/pw-bureaus/sustainable-energy/loans>
- Drinking water information <https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/drinkingwater>



- Fats, Oils and Grease (F.O.G.) - from the Pan to the Can
<https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/sewer-consent-decree/clean-drain-campaign>
- Trash pick-up, street cleaning, etc.
<https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/solid-waste>
- Other information/programs on Department of Public Works:
<https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/about-pw>