

BUILDING YOUR TEAM

SAMPLE SCRIPT: CONVERSATION WITH CLERGY/ SPIRITUAL LEADER

YOU: Rabbi Sharon, you know how I am always the one worried about whether we are recycling here. Thank you so much for always supporting me. You know, I have been thinking that there are probably others in the congregation who have similar interests about caring for the environment. I would really love to meet them. Do you know of anyone?

SPIRITUAL LEADER: Well, I would need to think about that.

YOU: Maybe someone who has mentioned to you their interest in the environment, or clean water, or climate change, or engaging with the youth since they are really in-tune with the environment [something to trigger some recollections of conversations].

SPIRITUAL LEADER: Come to think of it, I heard someone mention something to me the other night.

YOU: I was thinking if there are a few of us, we could meet and explore possible educational activities we could do together

— or, if you don't need to proceed with as much caution as depicted in the line above —

YOU: I would really like to form a green team here at the congregation where we could bring in speakers, improve our grounds and facilities to be more friendly to the environment, and engage the youth in caring for the Earth [use the language that suits your faith tradition best]. I am happy to build and lead this team so that this doesn't become more work for you, but maybe you could introduce me to some other congregants who have similar interests?

(If your spiritual leader knows no one with similar interests, and seems to be somewhat non-supportive, perhaps this is a sign that you will be swimming uphill most of the time and perhaps this isn't the right time to build a Green Team at your congregation.)