

<p>Earth Care Congregations a certification program of the Presbyterian Hunger Program</p> <p>Application Materials Section 1 Earth Care Congregation (ECC) Information and Earth Care Congregation (ECC) Audit/Narrative Report Section 2 Next Steps/Visioning Section 3 Earth Care Pledge (Approved by session. Signature can be done electronically. Only Forms must be submitted online and are accepted January 1-February 15, each year. Please contact jessica.maudlin@pcusa.org with questions. Content updated May, 2022.</p>											
<p>Section 1 ECC Information and ECC Audit or Narrative Report</p>						<p>Contact and Congregational Information</p>					
Date:											
Name of congregation (as will be printed on your certificate):											
Original Certification Date:											
Number of members:											
Street address:											
City:											
State (two letter abbreviation):											
Zip:											
Country:											
Contact person:											
Contact phone:											
Contact email:											
Pastor's name:											
Church office phone:											
Church/earth care team web site address:											
Number of Earth Care Team members:											
Date Earth Care Team was formed:											
Name of team if not called "earth care team:"											
Presbytery:											
Presbytery staff person's name to announce certification if applicable:											
Presbytery staff person's email address:											
Are you: a) First Year Application b) Recertify Application c) 5th year+ Narrative Application											
Congregational Demographics											
<p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p>Earth Care Teams can decide the best way to move forward with this application. Steps include completing the following audit of their church's practices and asking session to affirm the Earth Care Pledge. There are four categories to be assessed in the audit: worship, education, facilities and outreach. For initial certification, identify the points associated with the correct answer for your congregation. For initial certification, twenty-five points are needed in each category for a total of 100 points. A total of fifty points, with at least five in each category, are needed for recertification for each year after initial certification.</p> <p>For initial certification, facilities upgrades can be made at any previous time, but worship, education and outreach activities must have occurred in the past year. Recertification all measures and activities for all categories must have occurred in the past year.</p> <p>NOTES</p> <p>Tips and resources for completing activities in each of the areas are provided in "Earth Care Congregations: A Guide to Greening Presbyterian Churches," found at www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations</p> <p>To record points, locate the activity, look at the "number of times completed" row at the top and then drop down in the appropriate column to locate the point value. For instance, if your church devoted one Sunday to earth care in the past year, you receive 5 points whereas if your church had 5 such Sundays, you receive 25 points.</p> <p>In some sections, the application invites you to share a resource your church has located and appreciated (glass communion cup, cleaning supplies, Vacation Bible School curriculum). This optional sharing of resources can help other congregations wanting to make changes. Don't worry if all your text won't "show" in the field - if you entered it, we will get it on our receiving end!</p> <p>To take advantage of the audit, you are invited to share measurable and appreciable information. All of the activities listed on this audit are by no means the only way for your congregation to act as stewards of God's earth! The audit was created to standardize a scoring system for the program. Please use the "other" section, listed after outreach, to write in other activities that your congregation has completed. You are encouraged to send in further information and pictures from events with your ECC application.</p> <p>If you have any questions about the audit, please do not hesitate to contact us at (800) 728-7228, x5626.</p>											
<p>EARTH CARE CONGREGATION AUDIT (25 points needed in each section for initial certification, for overall 100 point total. 5 points needed in each section for recertification, for overall 50 point total.)</p>											
Worship											POINTS
Number of Actions						1	2	3	4	5	Points
1.	Number of Sundays devoted to earth care in the past year					5	10	15	20	25	
2.	Number of worship services conducted outdoors in the past year					5	10	15	20	25	
3.	Number of sermons on earth care in the past year					5	10	15	20	25	
4.	Number of earth care awareness dramas or dances during worship in the past year					5	10	15	20	25	
5.	Number of trees/shrubs planted for new members, baptisms, confirmations, etc					2	4	6	8	10	
Number of Actions						1	5	10	25	50	Points
6.	Number of Sundays that worship services had an intentional earth care component (prayers, hymns, readings) in the past year					2	4	6	8	10	
7.	Number of Sundays that an earth care themed banner or other art was displayed in the past year					2	4	6	8	10	
8.	Number of Sundays that locally grown, pesticide free flowers were used in the sanctuary					2	4	6	8	10	
9.	Number of Sundays that a Minute for Mission on earth care issues was presented					2	4	6	8	10	
10.	Number of Sundays with a paperless service					2	4	6	8	10	
Number of Actions						Yes	No				Points
11.	Did your church purchase Eco-Palms (or other sustainably sourced greenery) for Palm Sunday?					5	0				

12.	Did your church promote and participate in an earth care-focused Lent discipline?*	10	0						
13.	Does your church use glass communion cups or regularly do communion by intinction?*	10	0						
14.	Does your church have an outdoor meditation labyrinth or prayer garden?	10	0						
15.	Has your church sponsored an event for members to write a creation care song, sermon, or prayer?	10	0						
				Subtotal Worship Points					
				0					
Subtotal for worship: ** If you recommend particular worship resources or sources for glass cups, devotional materials, share here:									
Education									
				POINTS					
Number of Actions									
		1	2	3	4	5			
17.	Number of children's/youth Sunday school courses (series of classes) on earth care	12	14	16	18	20			
18.	Number of adult courses (series of classes) with an earth care focus	12	14	16	18	20			
19.	Number of days Vacation Bible School had an earth care theme	4	8	12	16	20			
20.	Number of guest earth care speakers or programs	4	8	12	16	20			
21.	Number of classes held outside	1	2	3	4	5			
22.	Number of youth projects related to earth care conducted	4	8	12	16	20			
23.	Number of articles/announcements about earth care in the bulletin/newsletter	4	8	12	16	20			
24.	Number of months a bulletin board on earth care was displayed	2	4	6	8	10			
25.	Number of pages on the church's website devoted to earth care	4	8	12	16	20			
26.	Number of books, games, videos, or other materials with an earth care focus in church library?	1	2	3	4	5			
27.	Number of educational events focused on sustainable lifestyle choices for members	12	14	16	18	20			
28.	Number of times email messages about earth care sent to church members	1	2	3	4	5			
29.	Number of earth care fairs or educational events held	12	14	16	18	20			
30.	Number of art displays or exhibits focused on earth care held at church	4	8	12	16	20			
Number of Actions									
		Yes	No						
31.	Is an earth care component included in confirmation classes?	5	0						
32.	Is an earth care component included in new member classes?	5	0						
				Subtotal Education Points					
				0					
Subtotal for education: ** If you can recommend particular curricula, books, speakers, please share here:									
Facilities									
				POINTS					
Energy Conservation									
		Yes	No						
34.	Has your church earned recognition for greening efforts from other groups?	10	0						
35.	Does your church have any LEED-certified buildings?*	10	0						
36.	Has your session approved a plan to become carbon neutral? (General Assembly 2006 Carbon Neutrality Resolution)	5	0						
37.	Does your church purchase renewable energy, i.e., wind, solar?	5	0						
38.	Has your church performed an energy audit and implemented at least two suggested items?	5	0						
39.	Did your church perform 2 pre-season (prior to heat/prior to air conditioning) HVAC checkups this year?	2	0						
Heating/Cooling									
		0	some	half	most	all			
40.	Are your church's furnaces high-efficiency models?	0	2	3	4	5			
41.	Are your church's air conditioners high-efficiency models?	0	2	3	4	5			
42.	Are your church's HVAC systems programmable to turn on and off at set times?	0	2	3	4	5			
43.	Are your church's HVAC systems zoned so that not all rooms need to be heated/cooled continually?	0	2	3	4	5			
44.	Number of outside doors that seal tightly	0	2	3	4	5			
45.	Number of windows that seal tightly	0	2	3	4	5			
46.	Number of windows that are double-pane	0	3	5	7	10			
47.	Number of windows that are covered with plastic/storm windows for energy efficiency	0	2	3	4	5			
Lighting									
		0	some	half	most	all			
48.	Number of fixtures with efficient light bulbs: compact fluorescent light bulbs, LEDs, or efficient tube	0	2	5	7	10			
49.	Number of exit signs with light emitting diode (LED) bulbs	0	2	5	7	10			
50.	Number of restrooms with motion sensors on lights	0	2	3	4	5			
51.	Number of classrooms with motion sensors on lights	0	2	3	4	5			
52.	Number of rooms with signs to turn off lights when you leave the room (if no motion sensors)	0	1	2	3	4			
Heating water									
		0	some	half	most	all			
53.	Number of church's water heaters tankless or on-demand?	0	2	3	4	5			
Renewable energy and alternative building*									
		Yes	No						
54.	Does your church use geothermal energy to heat and cool its facilities?	10	0						
55.	Does your church have solar panels?	10	0						
56.	Does your church have a wind turbine to generate power?	10	0						
57.	Does your church have cob, straw bale, or rammed-earth tire construction?	10	0						
Water conservation									
		0	some	half	most	all			
58.	Number of dual-flush or low-flow toilets installed	0	2	5	7	10			
59.	Number of waterless urinals installed	0	2	5	7	10			
60.	Number of faucets with aerators	0	2	3	4	5			
Recycling/waste									
		0	some	half	most	all			
61.	Amount of recycled paper purchased	0	1	3	4	5			
62.	Number of copies made that were double-sided	0	1	3	4	5			
63.	Aluminum, glass, plastic, and/or paper recycled*	0	1	3	4	5			
64.	Amount of food scraps and lawn/garden waste that is composted	0	1	3	4	5			
65.	Amount of purchased paper products (napkins, paper towels, toilet tissue) made from recycled paper	0	1	3	4	5			
66.	Amount of curriculum, anthems, and other worship/educational materials saved and reused	0	1	3	4	5			
67.	Amount of electronic equipment recycled*	0	1	3	4	5			
Reusing									
		Yes	No						
68.	Does your church serve as a recycling drop-off for church members and/or the community?	5	0						
69.	Do most members know how to turn off water, electricity, and gas as well as to monitor their functions?	5	0						
70.	Are church members given the option of receiving the church newsletter via email?	3	0						
Reusing									
		0	some	half	most	all			
71.	Number of plates used that are reusable	0	1	3	4	5			
72.	Number of cups used that are reusable	0	1	3	4	5			
73.	Amount of flatware used that is reusable	0	1	3	4	5			
74.	Number of events where water is served from pitchers (not disposable water bottles)	0	1	3	4	5			

128.	Does your church grow food for nearby food ministry, or act as an exchange place for food surplus?	10	0						
129.	Does your church support youth and young adults to enter into creation stewardship as a vocation?	5	0						
						Subtotal Outreach Points			
						0			
Subtotal for outreach:									
130.	<i>*Hosting mission trip organization, if you can recommend for others (Joining Hands, AIR Guatemala, World Mission, others):</i>								
131.	<i>*Country/name of partnership:</i>								
132.	<i>*How many acres is your garden:</i>								
133.	<i>*How many lbs of food/year does your garden produce:</i>								
134.	<i>*If known, approx. lbs food gleaned:</i>								
135.	<i>** If you recommend particular environmentally-themed mission trip sites, public policy tools, and other resources for outreach , please share here:</i>								
			TOTALS			POINTS			
			Subtotal for Worship			0			
			Subtotal for Education			0			
			Subtotal for Facilities			0			
			Subtotal for Outreach			0			
			Total Points:			0			
136.	<i>Other earth care activities your church has completed or other information to share:</i>								
<i>Name and contact information of anyone in your congregation who has technical environmental expertise and would be willing to consult/share knowledge on a limited basis with another PCUSA congregation trying to care for God's earth:</i>									
Congratulations on finishing your Earth Care Congregations Information and Audit, and on all the good work that your congregation has done to protect God's creation. Thank you for									
If your audit shows that your congregation has earned at least 25 points in each category, with an overall total of 100 points, please continue to Form 2 and 3. (If the audit shows that your congregation has some steps left to earn 25 points in each category, please continue to take actions toward earth care and apply to be an Earth Care Congregation once the point total has been									
FORM 2 Next Steps/Visioning									
We invite you to share photos, bulletins, or newsletter articles with us by emailing them to jessica.maudlin@pcusa.org . We would be happy to highlight your congregation's good work if we receive a good paragraph about your congregation's particular program(s) that you think would be of interest to others. In addition to pictures and good description you might think about including a quotation from the pastor, a church member, or a youth/young adult. Please include paragraph below under "other" or attached in an email.									
Briefly describe your plans for recertification in each of the four areas for next year :									
138.	WORSHIP:				<small>(Note: when you cut/paste into these boxes, you might not see all the text, but we will receive it when we open the file! If you want to keep a copy for your files, we suggest you print and save it.)</small>				
139.	EDUCATION:								
140.	FACILITIES:								
141.	OUTREACH:								
142.	OTHER:								
FORM 3 Earth Care Pledge									
The Social Justice and Peacemaking Unit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), in consultation with congregations and presbyteries across the denomination, developed a five-part resolution as a model for mobilizing congregations to respond to the General Assembly's "CALL TO RESTORE THE CREATION." The resolution was simplified to a four-part pledge in 2010. Churches applying to be an Earth Care Congregation must have the Earth Care Pledge affirmed by their session and signed by the clerk.									
Earth Care Pledge									
Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace									
1. Our worship and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect and restore this earth.									
2. In education , we will seek learning and teaching opportunities to know and understand the threats to God's creation and the damage already inflicted. We will encourage and support each other in finding ways of keeping and healing the creation in response to God's call to earth-keeping, justice and community.									
3. Our facilities will be managed, maintained and upgraded in a manner that respects and cherishes all creation, human and non-human, while meeting equitably the needs of all people. In our buildings and on our grounds we will use energy efficiently, conserve resources, and share what we have in abundance so that God's holy creation will be sustainable for all life and future generations.									

