



Engaging With Others To Build An Earth Care Team

Barbara Overton
Presbytery of Tropical Florida
Riviera Presbyterian Church



Just Get Started

- ▶ Get Alignment with Leadership
- ▶ Develop Relationships with Interested Parties
- ▶ Use different ways of communicating
- ▶ Overcome Objections
- ▶ Celebrate small victories

Communication Techniques

In person conversations

Networking

Newsletters

Social Media if you have it (we don't)

Google Survey

Zoom (virtual meetings)

Educate and Engage

PCUSA Website
Resources and
Blogs

Presbyterians for
Earth Care
Resources

Other
Environmental
Faith Action
Groups

Liturgy and
worship resources

General Assembly
Resources

Google Survey

Which of these activities is your Church currently doing or considering?

Yes Working on It Thinking about It No

- ▶ We are certified as an Earth Care Congregation
- ▶ We usually use Fair Trade Coffee at the Church
- ▶ We make Fair Trade Coffee available to members for purchase
- ▶ We always or mostly use reusable plates, cups and cutlery
- ▶ We have installed one or more energy saving item at our Church (like LED lights or efficient appliances)

- ▶ We have installed solar panels at the Church
- ▶ We include Earth Care in our worship
- ▶ We include Earth Care in our education
- ▶ We have native landscaping on our grounds
- ▶ We advocate for Earth Care issues in our community



What did we learn?

Of the 5 Churches we have responses from

- ▶ 2 Churches are considering becoming Earth Care Congregations
- ▶ No one is working on installing solar panels
- ▶ But all have done energy saving work
- ▶ Most have Earth Care in Worship and Education
- ▶ Most use native landscaping
- ▶ Mixed results on use of Fair Trade Coffee and elimination of disposables

Survey Comments

- ▶ We need to be the noisy prophetic voice and help people understand the urgency of the situation we are in and provide ways people can participate in being the solution
- ▶ Our goal is to incorporate practices such as reusable items for fellowship. We are in the process of upgrading our sanctuary windows to low e impact windows.
- ▶ Use the Presbytery Newsletter, the Presbytery meetings, and shared resources to educate people. Organize churches to be advocates for change and a voice on issues.
- ▶ Provide grants to incorporate some of the costly initiatives such as led lighting.
- ▶ Provide suggestions on what congregations could do; Frequent presentations from the Earth Care "team"

Overcoming Objections

- ▶ We are too [broke, old, busy, whatever] to do Earth Care
- ▶ There are more important things to work on
- ▶ Earth Care is too political for our Church

Go for Easy Wins

Set Goals

Be Ambitious

Keep Working

