Engaging With Others To Build An Earth Care Team

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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