

Overview of the Project

We are facing a climate crisis that is the biggest challenge the world has ever known. Already we are seeing longer periods of drought, record-breaking high temperatures, and warmer oceans that give rise to disasters that result in loss of property and lives that affect all of God's creation.

The Presbyterian Church has responded to this crisis from policies such as "Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice" in 1990 to the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson's recent statement calling Presbyterians to respond to climate change with faithful action. Perhaps the most significant program the Church has undertaken in this area is Earth Care Congregations, with 232 churches certified in 2018. However, there is much more that needs to be done. Churches, with their leadership structure and congregational members are perfectly positioned to witness to the moral and spiritual call to act to protect our common home.

Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC) is responding to this congregational opportunity by collaborating with presbyteries to support churches in their stewardship of creation. To accomplish this purpose, PEC is offering a Presbytery Earth Care Team (PECT) Toolkit for presbyteries to involve churches and their members in making sustainable choices to care for God's creation. The strategy involves forming an Earth Care Team at the presbytery level to engage and support congregations in integrating creation care into their church's Christian witness and ministry.

The PECT Toolkit is a step-by-step procedure that describes how to get started, recruit others, and organize and sustain your team, plus ideas for education and events and how to schedule and promote them. The PECT Toolkit also includes a Directory of Resources that may be useful as your Presbytery Earth Care Team considers educational events for the presbytery and/or churches in the presbytery, and a page of Frequently Asked Questions.

In addition, Presbyterians for Earth Care has partnered with the Presbyterian Hunger Program to present educational webinars for churches and individuals to learn more about Starting a Church Earth Care Team, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Churches, Community/Church Gardens, etc. PEC will also host conference calls to respond to questions, share resources and ideas, and provide support to individuals and teams starting and sustaining a Presbytery Earth Care Team.