



100 Hundred steps on the path towards caring for creation

1. Show yourself mercy and grace. It's about progress not perfection.
2. Read "Green" faith books – Green like God, This is our Father's World, Almost Amish, Go Green Save Green, Caring for Creation.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

3. Before you recycle think reduce and reuse
4. Limit of use of plastic straws – Americans use 500 million a day. Carry a glass or stainless steel one instead if you need a straw.
5. Use cloth shopping bags.
6. Recycle electronics – gold and other precious metals are in each – don't forget cell phones, tablets, tvs
7. Recycle "curbside" – aluminum, glass, all types of plastics, tin, cardboard, paper – 80% percent of what we throw away can be recycled
8. Use bagasse paper instead of tree paper – comes from sugar cane waste
9. Buy used books whenever possible
10. Donate clothing – cotton is one of the most agriculturally intense uses of land
11. Use both sides of a sheet of paper
12. Compost – saves gas for garbage trucks which means saving tax money
13. Use items that reduce waste – Lunchskins, Beeswax Wraps, water bottles, Skoys
14. Reduce clutter and free your mind – donate and recycle everything you don't need. Support a local charity
15. Host a Recycle Your Life event at your church.
16. Donate your gently worn shoes
17. Only print what is necessary. Have receipts sent to you as pdfs and store electronically
18. Purchase paper towels, toilet paper, tissue with recycled content

19. Consider friendlier diapers that are 80% cloth and an insert. Reduces landfills and also means a lot less plastic.
20. Put recycling bins in Sunday School rooms
21. Recycle old shower curtains use as weed killers
22. Recycle CFLs, and all batteries

Food and Gardening

23. Grow your own garden patch – Think Victory Gardens – Average piece of produce travels 1500 miles to your table
24. Can your own food – apples, tomatoes, fermented vegetables
25. Raise chickens – become your own rich soil creator
26. Support a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) buy a share
27. Shop at the local farmer's market
28. Limit drinking sodas - full of chemicals and corn syrup
29. Use unbleached parchment paper instead of wax paper – Wax on wax paper is derived from petroleum
30. Read your labels – don't buy anything with corn syrup or refined sugar or chemicals you don't understand.
31. Celebrate God's bounty – eat whole foods and vegetables
32. Eat organic – pesticides and fertilizers are poisoning us, kids, grandchildren and our land
33. Use glass containers instead of plastic for leftovers and storage. Glass doesn't emit toxins into the food when heating. Plastic eventually wears down and requires petroleum to make.
34. Plant bee and butterfly friendly plants. Did you know Monarchs are about listed as an endangered species?
35. Plant wild flower patches at home, school and church.

Alternative Transportation

36. Carpool with a friend – save gas, reduce carbon output, build a relationship

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37. Consider an Electric Vehicle for your next purpose – never stop to fill-up again
38. If you can, walk to go shopping or meet friends for a meal.
39. Buy a bike. Exercise, save gas, see the neighbors.
40. Do not idle your car. Turn off your car no matter how short of time you wait.
41. Create no idling policies at the church for day cares in particular.
42. Run errands in bunches.
43. Make sure that where you get your oil changed recycles the oil.
44. Recycle tires

Energy Efficiency

45. Get an energy audit for home and church.
46. Turn-off lights when not in the room
47. Get solar appliances – flash lights, phone chargers, sun oven
48. Don't use the air-conditioning unless you really need it
49. Replace light bulbs with either CFLs or LEDs.
50. Turn off things when not in use. Computers, flat screen tvs, game consoles, kitchen appliances.
51. Get a programmable thermostat,
52. Fix leaky cracks in windows, vents, doors.
53. Wear layers in the winter and turn the thermostat down 3 degrees.
54. Line dry your clothes.
55. Keep your freezer full. Freeze bottles of water to keep full so it will run more efficiently.
56. Get heavy drapes that are lined to block cold and heat gain from the windows.
57. Use at least 18 inches of insulation in the attic.
58. Place outdoor lights on timers or motion sensors.

Around the home

59. Use earth friendly soaps and cleaners – Best: Lemon, vinegar, baking soda, salt.

- Less bad – eco-friendly cleaners with no dyes and unnecessary chemicals
60. Get a dust mop – Commercial rags contain chemicals that can cause cancer in pets and reduce your landfill input
61. Shop locally – support local merchants whenever possible – keeps money in the community
62. Invest in your faith values – what companies are in your 401k – do they reflect your values
63. Use beeswax or soy candles preferably locally made. Wax from stores is petroleum based. This goes for church alters too.
64. Purchase low or zero VOC paints & furniture.
65. Use cosmetics that are made from things you understand.
66. Instead of purchasing gifts at the holiday purchase an activity for all ie holiday light tour.
67. Cook more at home, reduces waste, gas and healthier for you.
68. Consider purchasing carbon offsets for trips. Carbon offsets invest money into greenhouse reducing programs to offset the emissions you release by traveling.
69. Do not wash oil, fats or grease down the drain. Try to find a grease recycler.
70. Get a solar or electric lawn mower, human powered lawn mowers.
71. Social Media - follow some green tip pages.
72. Become a designated Audobon Backyard and do a bird count.

Water conservation

73. Collect rainwater and use that – have you thought about what municipal water actually costs?
74. If repaving – think permeable. When rain hits will the land underneath reabsorb or does it run-off to the nearest creek?

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75. Don't flush drugs and medications – recycle during a national day or at least put in the garbage bag.
76. Switch our faucets and shower heads to conserve water.
77. Switch toilets out to low flush toilets.
78. Take a 3 minute shower or less.
79. Turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth or shaving.
80. Xeriscape your yard to use less water and chemicals.
81. Wash full loads of clothes and dishes.
82. Recycle used shower and sink water to water indoor plants and shrubs outside.
83. Water gardens at night and early morning set on timers.
84. Use clay pot cisterns instead of hoses.
97. Start a prison ministry with veggie gardens.
98. Start a library with donated books in a school or prison.
99. Use recycled materials for sets in VBS.
100. Projects for VBS instead of crafts.

Church

85. Consider goats for your next church yard day clean up. They fertilize the church yard, produce much less emissions than lawn mowers, plus fun for the kids.
86. Consider planting a church garden or orchard to allow people to pick the fruit and vegetables as a sign God's bounty.
87. Install rainwater barrels or cistern to water exterior plants at church.
88. Consider putting dimmers/motion sensors on parking lot lights to reduce bills & light pollution.
89. Rethink VBS – do you really need all those prepared plastic crafts?
90. Support free trade coffee.
91. Encourage reduction of Styrofoam coffee cups. Have everyone bring their own cup or use the ones the church bought years ago.
92. Host a carpool, walk, bike day to church.
93. Blessing of the bicycles.
94. If church buses use diese, switch to biodiesel. Made from used French fry and doughnut grease.
95. Donate used church furniture to thrift stores.
96. Close church on Fridays to save on air conditioning during summer.

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