



A Road Map for Success

WHAT YOUR CREATION CARE TEAM WILL ACCOMPLISH IN A YEAR



Thank you for participating in the Catholic Climate Covenant's Creation Care Team (CCT) program!

This checklist will help your CCT stay on track during the next year. It is not a list of requirements, but rather ideas for a path forward. Following this path will ensure that your CCT contributes in a real, meaningful way to better care of Creation.

We don't expect you to do this alone. Toolkits to help you talk with Church leaders and host events are in our [Resource Library](#), which is available exclusively for our Creation Care Teams. In addition, there are many study guides, small group resources, and other program materials on our [website](#). We also send you ideas and tips through our bi-weekly emails.

We want to help! Please write us at programs@catholicclimatecovenant.org if you have any questions about accomplishing a specific project, or if you would simply like to chat with someone about your work. The important thing is to get started; we'll help you to your destination.

Your CCT is doing good work. On behalf of Creation and our vulnerable sisters and brothers, we thank you.



TEAM BUILDING: PLAN TO COMPLETE ALL

- Team meets once a month to pray together, talk, and coordinate events and projects.
- Ask to meet with your pastor, parish school principal, or institutional leader to hear his/her views on climate change. If those leaders are not available, meet with the Parish Council, parish staff, or other staff in your institution.
- Publish something about what the CCT is doing in your community's bulletin, newsletter, or website. This is important in order to get the community involved.



WORSHIP: PLAN TO ACCOMPLISH ONE

- Talk to your pastor about integrating climate change and Creation care into a homily. A good start would be to focus on Pope Francis's *Laudato Si'* encyclical.
- Talk to your music director about integrating Creation care music in worship.
- Ask your pastor to hold an annual "Earth Day" Sunday (April 22), St. Francis of Assisi Festival (October 4), or World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation (September 1) with appropriate liturgy and hymns.



EDUCATION: PLAN TO ACCOMPLISH ONE

- Hold a Creation care educational event for your community. Catholic Climate Covenant provides program guides for Feast of St. Francis and Earth Day. These programs can be conducted on any date, not just the official festival dates.
- Show an environmental film and hold a discussion afterwards.
- Use your bulletin insert, newsletters, or flyers in the hallway to disseminate Creation care educational information. Catholic Climate Covenant provides a list of the top 10 things you can do to protect Creation.
- Sponsor a study of *Laudato Si'* or another Creation care text.

- Take a tour of places in your community that are already suffering from climate change, and report back to your congregation/community what you learned.
- Speak with groups in your community that are already active on Creation care and climate change mitigation. Learn from their successes and challenges.
- Reach out to Youth Ministry and explore integrating Creation care into their curriculum and plans.
- Educate while being active in community. Consider a congregational or community project (planting trees to sequester carbon dioxide, cleaning a bike path to encourage sustainable transportation) that benefits your community. This is especially good for youth groups!



SUSTAINABILITY: PLAN TO ACCOMPLISH ONE

- Complete an energy audit of your building. You can check with your state's Interfaith Power and Light (IPL) or your local utility about energy audits.
- Talk to your Parish Council or appropriate committees/leaders about purchasing "clean" or "green power." Most utilities allow customers to purchase 100% renewable power for a nominal fee. Be sure to read all contracts carefully.
- Talk to your facilities manager or building services staff about sustainable practices. Changing lightbulbs to LEDs or CFLs, turning off office appliances at night, and posting a "please conserve water" sign by faucets will all help shrink your carbon footprint.
- Encourage carpooling, walking, or bicycling. This can be done by helping your community members use a carpool [sign-up sheet](#) or installing bicycle racks.
- Switch to re-usable dishware for your events. A fact sheet on reusable dishware and a guided process for making the switch are in our 2015 Feast of St. Francis [program guide](#) (see page 6).
- Start/encourage recycling and composting, both of which shrink your carbon footprint.
- Set up a program to measure the carbon footprint of each family in the community and have them pledge to reduce. This can be done by directing families to an online carbon calculator (such as [this one](#) from the EPA) and having families share their results at a community event.



ADVOCACY: PLAN TO ACCOMPLISH ONE

- Use the action alerts you receive in your bi-weekly CCT emails to contribute to moral climate policies.
- Disseminate the advocacy information to your community.
- Hold a letter-writing campaign to elected officials at local, state, or national levels to tell them that Creation care should be reflected in public policy decisions
- Visit your elected officials at the local, state, or national levels to tell them that Creation care should be reflected in public policy decisions.

