WHY HAVE A FAITH COMMUNITIES GO GREEN TOOLKIT?

We normally don’t think of our religious communities as being forces for environmental change. But they have been for centuries. Various religious interpretations say that God commanded humans to care for the land, sea, and animals instructing followers to be conscientious guardians of Earth. A Native American proverb: “Treat the earth well, it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children.”

The UN Parliament of Religions states that it remains an irrefutable fact that climate change continues to be one of the most systemic environmental threats that humankind has ever faced. Additionally, faith communities are becoming the moral authority for the global environmental future, beyond the capacity of scientists and politicians.

In recognition of the commonality of religions in their foundations to care for the earth, the United Nations Environment Programme through partnership with the Parliament of the World’s Religions Climate Action Program, published Faith for Earth, A Call to Action. We at FCGG found it full of wisdom and insight.

It can be downloaded here.
WHAT THIS TOOLKIT DOES

This toolkit provides resources to support your faith community’s effort to educate and act in addressing the current state of the poor health of our environment to which we all contribute through pollution and degradation of our air, water, and soil. The toolkit gives you tools to bring your congregations leadership and membership together to address the environmental crisis facing humanity. Every small action multiplies when every faith community participates. It creates the opportunity for congregations to partner with other faith communities in a united effort to protect our common home.
HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT

The toolkit is divided into the following topics:

- Why and how to create and sustain a green team in your congregation,
- How to lower your house of worship utility bills and carbon footprint,
- Ways to engage and educate congregational members to change daily behaviors to better care for the earth,
- Actions to effect legislative policy that impacts all, but has a greater effect on minority and lower income communities,
- Ways to encourage involvement of young people,
- Where to find financial resources

Start with the Why and How to Form a Green Team. The remaining tools give guidance to help your team achieve success in the areas of focus. Choose topics that fit your groups objectives. The stories will inspire and encourage you as you go on your journey. Send us your story to share what you learned and experienced. Watch for additions of new ideas, resources, and stories.

Contact us at info@fcgg.org for assistance.