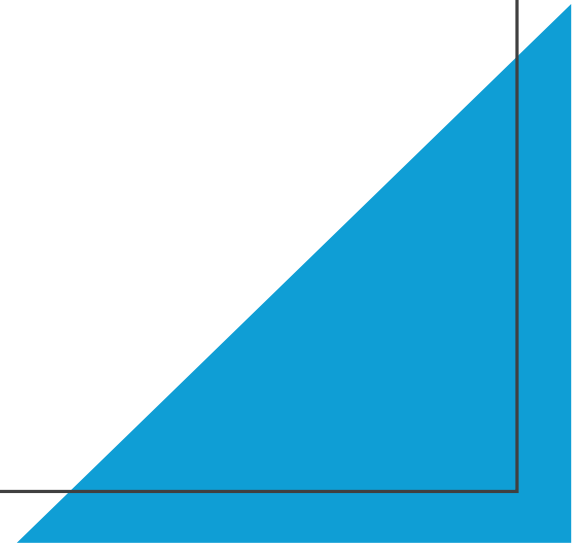




# FAITH COMMUNITIES GO GREEN

A COLLABORATION: GREEN UMBRELLA AND EQUASION

The FCGG Membership Working Group  
Greater Cincinnati Green Team Gathering  
Ideas and Resource for Green Teams  
April 11, 2026



# Resources for Ohio Environmental Legislation

- Find Current Ohio environmental legislative campaigns found on the Ohio Citizen Action site here: [https://www.ohiocitizen.org/current\\_campaigns](https://www.ohiocitizen.org/current_campaigns)
- Press Release Archives from Ohio Environmental Council here: <https://share.google/rhClmP6gGzoT8Yu9O/> While on the OEC website check out their Advocacy Toolkit.
- Find who represents you in Congress and the Ohio Legislature go to the League of Woman Voters here: <https://share.google/gCyWHJxnim7j6tm9L>
- For a deeper dive into Ohio legislation visit the senate and house sites here: <https://ohiosenate.gov/legislation/search?generalAssembly=136> and <https://www.ohiohouse.gov/legislation/search>



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## ***What can your house of worship members do to live “greener” – and reduce harmful pollution?***

### ***Recycle Reuse, Repurpose, Reuse!***

#### ***A fun event;***

Create a “Bring One, Take One” exchange day at your houses of worship: bring clean items in good condition, you no longer use and exchange for an equal number of items you want or need such as books, kitchenware, children’s toys, art supplies, hand gardening tools. Do not bring any chemical products, paints, or any item weighing over 5 pounds. Limit the number of items per person.

#### ***An educational event;***

Bringing in speakers from The Cincinnati Recycle and Reuse HUB and your county Resources Department to teach what can be recycled where. Set up a group tour of the HUB and Rumpke Recycling Facility.

Bring a speaker about plastic. Learn about “forever chemicals.” Get tips on what items can be substituted for plastic and tricks to remember to bring your reusable bags when shopping or food containers when eating out.



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# Resources for Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose

- Since 2021 the Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub has diverted 1.7 million pounds of material from landfills: <https://www.cincinnati-recycling-and-reuse-hub.org>
- Ohio County ReSource works closely with communities, to provide technical assistance, education, and tools designed to reduce waste and capture valuable resources through recycling and composting that leads to a society that generates zero waste. Every county has a program. Here is the link to Hamilton County's: <https://hamiltoncountysource.org/>
- Go Zero aims at innovating how to better steward food waste: <https://www.gozero.org/>
- The Education/Lifestyles Working Group Faith Communities Go Green has hosted many speakers over the years to inform faith communities about Plastic and Forever Chemicals. Check out the Education/Lifestyles Working Group page and the media page on <https://fcgg.org>



***What can your house of worship members do to live “greener” –  
Eat healthier for you and the planet.***

***A fun event;***

Host a congregational potluck environmentally themed dinner :

Theme # 1: Use food ingredients sources from local sustainably grown produce farms.

Theme # 2: Serve only plant-based meatless dishes for all courses.

Always have all ingredients listed to alert to possible allergens in the food.

***An educational event;***

Start a Meatless Monday Movement in your house of worship.

Bring in a professional chef to teach a vegetarian cooking class using locally grown sustainably ingredients.

Take a field trip to Gorman Heritage Farm, Tikkun Farm, or a local CSA.

Watch and discuss a movie or talk about a book about regenerative farming.

Set up a community garden at or near your facility to teach gardening without harmful chemicals.

Bring a speaker to teach how to compost with inexpensive supplies.



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## Resources for Eating Healthier for you and the planet.

- The Central Ohio River Valley (CORV) initiative is to connect community members with local growers and fresh, healthy local food. to promote self-sufficiency, sustainability, and the wise use of resources. - <https://www.eatlocalcorv.org>
- Meatless Monday meals offer nutritious, plant-based, and vegetarian meals. Connect with The Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future for guides and cooking tips to recipes and social media graphics, to join the Meatless Monday movement.  
<https://meatlessmonday.publichealth.jhu.edu>
- Tucked away in the Evendale neighborhood of Cincinnati is our 122-acre, non-profit working farm, where history and nature come together in a unique and unforgettable way.  
<https://gormanfarm.org>
- Tikkun Farm, created to help repair the world, sows seeds of hope, and offer food to go.  
<https://tikkunfarm.com>
- Opportunities to keep food out of the landfill and distribute free healthy food:  
<https://endhunger.org/regional-offices/ohio/>, and <https://lastmilefood.org>



***What can your house of worship members do to live “greener” –  
Protect our waterways and our drinking water***

***A fun event;***

- Hike to a shallow stream to search for salamanders, tadpoles, frogs, and small fish.
- Join a group event to help restore a creek or riverbank or watershed.
- Create a Rain Garden at your house of worship and or your property to capture rainwater.
- Plant trees.

***An educational event;***

- Bring a speaker from your County Soil and Water District to learn where a drop of water goes after leaving your property. Find out what watershed are you in and why it is important?
- Organize a field trip to the Kentucky Stormwater District One (**SD1.org**) to learn why and how to reduce stormwater runoff from your property.
- Bring a speaker to learn why and where to plant trees.



# Resources for Protecting our waterways and our drinking water

- The Cincinnati Nature Center offers group rates, special programs for select groups, and training on how to use your existing outdoor spaces as an extension of your classroom.  
<https://www.cincynature.org/visit/visit-us>
- The Mill Creek Alliance champions the resurgence, restoration, education, and recreation of the Mill Creek Watershed as a natural and community asset.  
<https://www.themillcreekalliance.org>
- Taking Root offers Tree-planting projects in need of financial assistance: Submit an online application if projects are “shovel-ready” and community-based: <https://takingroot.info>
- Hamilton County Great Parks welcomes community groups who want to see what volunteering at Great Parks is like. Check your city parks, too.  
<https://www.greatparks.org/get-involved/volunteer>
- SD1 invites you to visit a one-of-a-kind facility, the Public Service Park. Learn why it is important to reduce the amount of pollution entering our streams and rivers through storm water runoff. <https://www.sd1.org/Facilities/Facility/Details/Public-Service-Park-4>



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## ***What can your house of worship do to make your building greener – and less expensive to run?***

Look over your utility bills – does your rate look right? Are you paying tax for gas- you should not be! FCGG can help you understand your utility bills.

Look around your building – see if there are things you can do to reduce energy use. EnergyStar and IPL are great resources. FCGG can give your house of worship an energy assessment.

Try to identify lower cost, easier to do fixes:

- Convert your lighting to LED, if you haven't already done so.
- Replace the weatherstripping or seals on doors and windows if you can see light through them.
- Get a 7-day programmable thermostat and program it with setbacks for times of disuse.
- Insulate hot water pipes and hot air ducts.
- Insulate your attic, if your insulation is below the level of the joists.
- Add storm windows or plastic film to single pane windows.

Prepare in advance for higher cost replacements or improvements:

Furnaces, air conditioners, appliances, solar electricity.



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## Resources to make your building greener – and less expensive to run.

- Faith Communities Go Green – [fcgg.org/](https://fcgg.org/)  
Explore FCGG webinars, toolkits and resources: <https://fcgg.org/facilities/>
- Interfaith Power & Light - <https://www.interfaithpower.org/> and  
“Cool Congregations” <https://www.coolcongregations.org/>
- EnergyStar: [www.energystar.gov](https://www.energystar.gov)  
Especially: [https://www.energystar.gov/industrial\\_plants/treasure\\_hunt](https://www.energystar.gov/industrial_plants/treasure_hunt)  
and for Houses of Worship “Treasure Hunts”:  
[https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/2024-09/Energy%20Checklist\\_Worship%20Facilities\\_new\\_2024.pdf](https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/2024-09/Energy%20Checklist_Worship%20Facilities_new_2024.pdf)  
and “Energy Efficiency Toolkit for Worship Facilities”:  
[https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/2024-09/EE\\_Toolkit\\_for\\_Worship\\_Facilities\\_508.pdf](https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/2024-09/EE_Toolkit_for_Worship_Facilities_508.pdf)
- Google: “you tube videos showing how to do simple energy efficiency projects”  
For example: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffJyxV-nRF4>  
**Caution! If you are going to try these actions, practice them first or hire someone skilled to do them.**





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“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead



Faith communities have a powerful voice together.

