

An Annual Earth Day Pledge for Stewardship of Creation

To Leaders of Congregations

Our environment (God's Creation) has been damaged by human activity, particularly by over-use and misuse of fossil resources. The damage we have done is still reversible, but may become irreversible during our lifetime. Environmental damage has led to climate change, which effects the poorest parts of the world most, leading to increased poverty and displacement. The damage also leads to more violence as people fight over increasingly scarce resources. What can we as Christians do to help heal creation?

Every congregation is asked to consider doing a pledge drive for the stewardship of creation. The intent is to encourage every individual to acknowledge how they might be contributing to damaging creation, and commit to changes in behavior that would lead to healing of creation through decreased energy use and carbon offsets.

We request that you do the pledge drive as a lead up to an Earth Day celebration on the Sunday preceding or following Earth Day. Earth Day is on April 22. The form below (or something like it) could be used for pledges. We request that you gather the pledges and then tally the total reduction of carbon footprint that results from all of the individual commitments. Then, we ask that you forward your tally to the Diocese at BCE@ecww.org, so that we can tally the effect of all of the commitments within the Diocese.

We also request that the Parish or Mission evaluate church buildings and make a similar pledge.

Individual or Family Pledge for Stewardship of Creation

Name: _____ **Email:** _____

Address: _____

Have Done	Will do in 2016	What can I/we do?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Switch to LED lighting to reduce heat, cost, and energy use
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Switch to more energy efficient appliances
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Switch to a more energy efficient furnace or heating system
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Switch to a more energy efficient water heater; consider on demand hot water
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Switch to more energy efficient windows
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Switch to a car with better fuel economy
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Reduce the number of cars I/we own
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Replace my roof with a longer lasting, more sustainable material
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Lower my thermostat in the winter; raise it in the summer
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Investigate the use of solar panels to reduce energy dependence
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Install solar panels
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Plant a tree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Purchase carbon offsets; see the offset program offered by the Diocese at http://www.ecww.org/carbon-offset-cooperative-mission