

Congregational Care of Creation

Dubuque Chapter of Iowa Interfaith Power & Light

The **Dubuque Chapter of Iowa Interfaith Power & Light** was created through Dubuque congregations to address environmental stewardship concerns, especially climate change impacts. Participation is available to congregations of all religious faiths in the Tri-State Dubuque area. We are the first local Chapter of Iowa Interfaith Power and Light.

This **Green Assessment and Guide** for your congregation encourages improvements through each member congregation's policy, financial, building and grounds, member engagement, education and outreach processes. These steps are 1.) Inexpensive – with many no cost activities; 2.) Fast-acting – generating savings within a month in many cases; and, 3.) Easy to implement – with most steps requiring no professional support.

Step 1: Laying a Foundation: Pass a Board or Parish Council Resolution. Publicize your commitment in a sermon and other communications. Name the values from your tradition that motivate you. Create urgency. Highlight the potential for savings. Communicate the moral responsibility for Creation Care. Make inaction uncomfortable. A **Sample Resolution:**

WHEREAS, the congregational leadership of _____ recognizes that our religious tradition teaches us that we have a moral obligation to preserve and care for Creation – our common home, and

WHEREAS, we recognize a fiduciary duty to operate and maintain our facilities in a fiscally responsible manner,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the congregational leadership of _____ is committed to incorporating energy conservation and environmental stewardship practices into the operation and maintenance of our facilities and programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we will promote Care of Creation awareness in our community and beyond; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we will emphasize through our religious observance and in other ways our faith's teachings and traditions to preserve and sustain the environment and promote actions that demonstrate this commitment.

Step 2: Build Your Green Team: Include three or more members including ministry staff, custodians, committee representatives, and adult and youth congregational members.

Step 3: Assess: Your Green Team decides how and when to conduct the Green Assessment of your congregation. Then conduct the assessment, list existing practices, identify potential improvements, and score the results. The Guide is helpful to understand and empower many relevant actions for each assessment element. Of notable help is the ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager, a free online tool you can use to measure and track energy and water consumption, as well as greenhouse gas emissions. Get an energy audit from your local utility to qualify for their energy saving incentives, to get further ideas and payback estimates.

Step 4: Participate in a follow-up joint Assessment. (OPTIONAL) Visiting Green Team members from other congregations, along with representatives from your team, could visit your congregational facilities and see first-hand or to discuss the current practices identified in the congregation's assessment. After a site assessment walk around or review, the visiting team could provide a document outlining the observed green activities, scoring estimates, cost effective considerations for improvements, and potential resources to help facilitate some improvements. This optional step has usually recommended higher scores than the initial scoring.

Step 5: Moving Forward: Review the assessment findings by potentially expanding your team, identifying "low hanging fruit", getting approval for "easy" changes, and reporting improvements as they are made.

Step 6: Develop a Plan: Review a list of initial priorities and develop a written plan with milestones and next steps. The Written Plan should include principles, overall priorities, and specific goals and identified timelines.

Step 7: Funding Strategies: implement no-cost conservation measures to generate saving first. Use savings to fund other green initiatives. Identify local, state, or utility incentives or rebates. Apply for the Sustainable Dubuque Community Grants of \$2,500 for green activities at your congregation. Available quarterly. Contact Cory Burbach, Cburbach@cityofdubuque.org

Step 8: Verify Your Impact: Analyze your results including Greenhouse Gas Reduction, energy cost savings and evaluate the overall impact of your efforts.

Step 9: Celebrate and Share Your Story: Engage your community. Communicate your accomplishments, challenges, and next steps.

Step 10: Continuous Improvement: Congregations should reassess your plan at least once every three years.

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GUIDANCE & REFERENCES for GREEN ASSESSMENT FOR CONGREGATIONS

by Iowa Interfaith Power & Light (I IPL) - Dubuque Chapter (version: Feb 2017)

I. Energy	
1.	<p>To what extent are lights, computers, monitors, printers, and other electronic equipment turned off or “powered down” when they are not in use? (<i>Occupancy sensors, dimmers, power strips, vending “misers”...</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not over-illuminate. Lighting levels should be tailored to the type of task being performed. • Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms and machines during non-use hours. • Consider occupancy sensors, and dimming controls to reduce lighting energy. • Vending “misers” (energy efficiency product for use with vending machines) have a rapid payback when used on refrigerated vending machines. Rapid payback means that the energy savings pay for the cost of the miser in a short time period.
2.	<p>To what extent are windows, shades, curtains, and outside doors closed when appropriate?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep outside doors closed when not in use. Attach automatic door closers. • Plug holes, install weather stripping and door sweeps, and caulk windows to stop heat loss. • Replace leaky doors and windows to reduce the need for heating and cooling in the building. • Install double pane windows and/or windows with a low-emission coating. Low-e coatings minimize the amount of ultraviolet (fades fabrics) and infrared light (heat energy) that can pass through glass without compromising the amount of visible light that is transmitted. Low-e coatings play an important role in the overall performance of a window and can significantly affect the overall heating, lighting, and cooling costs of a building.
3.	<p>To what extent are air vents on walls or windowsills cleaned, maintained, and kept free of obstructions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up an assigned cleaning and maintenance duty on a regular schedule and monitor observance of this. • Place signs near air vents that may be commonly blocked reminding people to avoid blocking them.

4.	<p>To what extent does your congregation consider the use of regionally-produced/ alternative energy & fuel sources (<i>solar, wind, geothermal, biodiesel</i>) in order to reduce use of fossil fuels?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local solar panel installation is one way to create and use green energy, but there are more options - learn about them: • Consider supporting Utility Green Power programs and Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) which promote clean energy through your energy providers or third parties. Examples – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Arcadia Power https://www.arcadiapower.com/ (nationwide), ○ Green Core Electric - https://www.greencoreelectric.com/how-it-works.html ○ MidAmerican Energy's Renewable Advantage program for customers who want to voluntarily contribute to the growth of renewable energy in their local service territory https://www.midamericanenergy.com/renewable-advantage.aspx • Include discussions about alternative and green energy in youth programs, publications, and social media. • Consider purchases of congregational vehicles that run on alternative fuel sources.
5.	<p>To what extent has your congregation used guidance or services from community energy providers or other conservation resources? (<i>Alliant, Black Hills, Clear Result...</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact your local utility for an energy audit. • Consider involving youth in an energy audit or some audit follow up work as a sustainability project. • Work with your local energy providers to investigate incentive programs and education they offer on an annual or bi-annual basis. • https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/owners_and_managers/congregations • Energy Star Action Workbook for Congregations (new in 2014) - https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/tools-and-resources/energy_star_action_workbook_congregations
6.	<p>To what extent are Energy Star Certified Products purchased over less energy efficient items? (<i>Electronics, appliances, water heaters...</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace older equipment with newer Energy Star certified products
7.	<p>To what extent has your congregation updated lighting by switching from incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) or LEDs? (<i>For CFLs: replace T-12s with T-8s or T-5s</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-lasting CFLs save money and energy. First on the market in the 1980s, CFLs have improved in efficiency and performance in recent years. • T-5 fluorescent bulbs entered the market in the 1990s. T-8 vs. T-5 (both LED): How To Determine Which Light Is The Right Light http://www.hoveyelectric.com/hovey-electric-power-blog/bid/82148/T8-vs-T5-How-To-Determine-Which-Light-Is-The-Right-Light • LED prices dropped significantly in the 2010s.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When it's time to replace EXIT lights, use an LED replacement kit. • Replace incandescent holiday lights with LEDs.
8.	<p>To what extent does your congregation adhere to seasonally appropriate standard room temperatures, making optimal use of its programmable temperature control systems for occupied, low-occupied, and unoccupied hours?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install programmable thermostats where appropriate. • Suggest desired temperature ranges for different seasons (heating, cooling) and make sure those are followed. This is called a Space Temperature Setpoint, typically 68 degrees F during the heating season (winter) and 76 degrees F during the cooling season (summer months) • Avoid opening windows and doors to regulate room temperatures. Instead, adjust ventilation and instruct those using rooms to inform staff of temperature change needs.
9.	<p>To what extent does your congregation use energy-saving technologies and practices during off-hours and vacant room times? (<i>appliances, vending machine misers, water heaters...</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider occupancy sensors or a 7-day, 24-hour time/clock with an override mechanism. • Install day lighting controls at doors and other exterior areas, e.g. a photoelectric sensor which turn lights on only when needed. • Ask maintenance staff to light only the areas where they are working and then turn lights off. • Turn off unneeded lights in vending machines. • If you have an older water heater (8+ years) wrap it in an insulating jacket.
10.	<p>To what extent are mechanical, water and power equipment checked regularly and scheduled for preventative maintenance?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and check equipment maintenance schedules. • Inspect ventilation equipment air filters regularly and replace as needed.
11.	<p>To what extent does your congregation quantitatively track energy use and generation of Green House Gas emissions? (<i>Electricity, gas, water and discards/waste</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA Energy Star Portfolio Manager is a good free online energy use tracking tool. Simply enter utility bill information: meter read dates, energy used and monthly bill. Portfolio Manager weather normalizes the data and estimates associated emissions. https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/facility-owners-and-managers/existing-buildings/use-portfolio-manager • Involve youth to setup and maintain the data entry and reporting from the tracking tools.

II. WASTE MINIMIZATION

1.	<p>To what extent does your congregation practice using both sides of paper?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set scrap paper boxes in appropriate rooms. Make them visible and attractive. • Keep discarded sheets of paper that still have one clean side for note and phone message pads. • The clean side of discarded sheets of paper can also be used for printing draft documents, mark a slash or X on the printed side to avoid confusion. • Order print jobs on 30% minimum post-consumer recycled paper and specify that such jobs be double-sided wherever possible. • Many copy machines have a built-in duplex mechanism that makes copying on both sides easy. If your copier doesn't have this feature, you can still do it manually.
2.	<p>To what extent has your congregation used multiple means of communication to reduce paper? (<i>E-mails, website, text notification, social media, display boards...</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post announcements and meeting minutes on the congregational website, social media sites, bulletin boards, and/or circulate them electronically. • Cut printing costs and reduce waste by keeping your paper mailing list and e-mail lists current.
3.	<p>To what extent does your congregation participate in an ongoing commercial or curbside recyclables collection program? (<i>aluminum, cardboard, paper, metals, designated plastics...</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycle items, such as paper, aluminum cans, cardboard and plastic bottles. • Know what's recyclable in your community collection program - http://dittmerrecycling.com/recycling-services/whats-recyclable/ • Monitor recycling bins to ensure that no trash has been put in them. • Monitor trash bins to ensure that no designated recyclables are put in them. • Learn about local food scrap recycling options in Dubuque - http://www.cityofdubuque.org/483/Food-Scrap-Recycling • Your program can include education/promotion and tracking/reporting. • Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency - https://www.dmaswa.org/
4.	<p>To what extent does your congregation and staff sort and manage materials for repair, reuse, repurposing, refilling, recycling, composting, anaerobic digestion, reclamation, and landfilling? (<i>wood, misc. metals, obsolete electronics, computer printer cartridges and hazardous waste...</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct annual waste audits to identify and review efficiencies in separating materials into their proper discard streams. • Educate congregants on the “why” and “how” of proper diversion for beneficial use. • Consider leasing equipment from manufacturers that will take back and properly

	<p>repair or recycle the equipment at the “end of their useful life.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train volunteers on how to run successful “Zero Waste” congregational events. • Reuse or recycle demolition and construction waste, whenever possible.
5.	<p>To what extent are recycling bins visibly placed next to trashcans and “waste” baskets? Are they labeled to encourage proper use?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid stand-alone trash cans. Always pair with recycling containers. • Make your recycling bins highly visible and attractive. • Include signage that tells what is and isn’t included in your recycling program. • Label “trash” and “waste” cans as “landfill” to emphasize its final destination. • Put recycling containers in all rooms for all recyclable materials. • Make sure recycling is picked up often enough that the bins are not overflowing.
6.	<p>When you have an outdoor program/event, do you request and borrow bottle/can recycling and compostables units from your local waste agency?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency (DMASWA) - www.dmaswa.org and call 563-589-4250. • Like inside, place recycling and compost bins next to “landfill”/trash bins in easily accessible areas for all materials to be discarded side by side. • Include signage that promotes proper item discards in event recycling and composting bins. • Make recycling bins highly visible at events.
7.	<p>To what extent does your congregation monitor and track bags of trash and disposed recyclables? (<i>Helps determine your recycling ratios and trends.</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On a regular basis, use a bathroom, health or luggage scale to compare weights of trash and recyclables to obtain your recycling rate.
8.	<p>To what extent does your congregation reuse items to reduce disposal? (<i>mugs, small plates, utensils, signage, brown envelopes, hymn books, seasonal decorations...</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instead of paper, switch to air dryers in the restrooms, or switch to a dispenser that is not so generous with paper towels. • Consider renting or leasing infrequently used equipment. (<i>Dubuque Tool Library</i>) • Reuse cardboard and appropriate plastic and metal containers. • If your congregation uses disposable plates, cups and utensils, consider switching to washable, recyclable or compostable items. • Use bulk dispensers for condiments, rather than individual packages. • Use bulk dispensers for drinks (milk, juices) rather than individual containers. • Consider durable towels, tablecloths, and napkins. • Encourage staff, and youth who bring food from home to use reusable containers. • Encourage staff and congregants to bring mugs, cups, and bottles for their personal use.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide staff dishwashing soap, hand towels, and scrubbers for cleaning. • Request that suppliers ship your orders in/on returnable, reusable pallets, boxes, and containers. If reusable containers are not available, ask for recyclable containers.
9.	<p>To what extent does your congregation purchase environmentally preferable products from local vendors? (<i>second-hand, rechargeable, reusable, recycled content, recyclable...</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish environmentally preferable and socially just guidelines for purchases. • Buy Local. Participate in the Buyer/Supplier local network in Eastern Iowa - http://www.buyersupplier.org/ • Purchase supplies and equipment made with recycled content materials (i.e., paper products, engine oil, paints, office products, carpeting, building materials, and outdoor benches/tables). • Consider remanufactured items, such as recharged toner cartridges and upgradable office equipment. • Choose the least toxic product suitable for each use. • Ensure that walls, floors, roofs, and windows are as energy efficient as possible. • Purchase Energy Star Certified copiers, fax machines, computers and printers that power down when not in use. Specify Energy Star Certified dishwashers and refrigerators. https://www.energystar.gov/products • Purchase supplies and equipment made with recycled content materials (i.e. paper products, engine oil, paints, office products, carpeting, building materials, and outdoor benches/tables). • Avoid buying products that are not easily recyclable in your area. • Buy products in bulk, with less packaging, or in returnable containers.
10.	<p>To what extent are hazardous materials disposed through an authorized vendor? (<i>mercury containing fluorescent bulbs, paints, chemicals, pesticides, batteries with toxic metals...</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase only needed chemical supplies to avoid disposing of extra, unused materials. • Do not mix chemical and hazardous wastes with everyday trash. Do not pour or flush them down the drain, or dump them on the ground. • Cover waste disposal areas and recycling bins to avoid contaminated stormwater runoff. • Ensure that hazardous materials are not landfilled or disposed of down the drain. Contact the regional collection center: Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency (DMASWA) - www.dmaswa.org and call 563-589-4250. • Fluorescent bulbs with green end caps marked “eco-light” are not classified as hazardous.
11.	<p>To what extent does your congregation ban the use of Styrofoam and #6 polystyrene plastics? (<i>cups, plates, utensils...</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://saferchemicals.org/2014/05/26/styrene-and-styrofoam-101-2/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “In 1986, the EPA released a report that listed the polystyrene manufacturing

	<p>process as the fifth largest creator of hazardous waste. Fifty-seven chemical byproducts are released during the manufacturing process of polystyrene, polluting the air, land, water and communities that live near the facilities.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Like many chemicals, we know about their health effects from worker exposures. Prolonged effects of chronic styrene exposure that many manufacturing workers face include: depression, chronic headaches, fatigue, and more. The US Department of Labor, Occupational Safety & Health Administration and the EPA are aware of styrene’s negative effects, but have yet to successfully limit its usage.” ○ “Polystyrene takes 500 years to decompose, and it takes up 25-30% of our world’s landfills. Styrofoam is no longer manufactured with CFC (notorious ozone-depleting chemical), but still uses HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons) that are still linked to depleting the ozone layer and affecting global warming.” ○ “Styrofoam contains the chemical styrene, which has been linked to cancer, vision and hearing loss, impaired memory and concentration, and nervous system effects and more. What happens when you eat hot foods or drink liquids from styrofoam plates and cups is the styrene leaches out of the Styrofoam and into our bodies.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While there are eco-friendly replacements for Styrofoam packaging and insulating materials, eco-friendly Styrofoam plates and cups are not yet prevalent in the market in the United States. If you are purchasing Styrofoam, it’s probably the bad stuff.
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III. BUILDING AND GROUNDS	
1.	<p>To what extent does your congregation use less toxic cleaning/maintenance products, and soaps to limit human exposure to harmful ingredients?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve and implement green purchasing policy. • Use water-based paints, non/less-toxic floor cleaners, and furniture cleaners. • Use products with toxic ingredients as infrequently as possible. • Work with janitorial staff to practice resource efficiency. • Reuse plastic garbage can liners in rooms that generate only dry trash. • Consider buffing hard floors rather than routinely rewaxing/recoating. • Utilize plastic refillable spray bottles as appropriate. • Stop using anti-bacterial soaps. http://www.consumerreports.org/health/fda-says-no-antibacterial-soap/ <p>Avoid products that have an "antibacterial" claim on their label. Triclosan, for example, kills bacteria in much the same way as an antibiotic, and research suggests that the widespread use of it might be contributing to the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. “There is evidence that exposure to triclosan interferes with the production and activity of hormones in the body, which could contribute to infertility, early puberty, obesity, and other problems,” Those and other banned</p>

	<p>antibacterial ingredients are also included in many household cleaners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cloflucarban, Fluorosalan, Hexachlorophene, Hexylresorcinol ○ Iodine complex (ammonium ether sulfate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate) ○ Iodine complex (phosphate ester of alkylaryloxy polyethylene glycol) ○ Nonylphenoxypoly (ethyleneoxy) ethanoliiodine ○ Poloxamer-iodine complex, Povidone-iodine 5 to 10 percent ○ Undecoylium chloride iodine complex, Methylbenzethonium chloride ○ Phenol (greater than 1.5 percent), Phenol (less than 1.5 percent) ○ Secondary amylicresols, Sodium oxychlorosene ○ Tribromsalan, Triclocarban, Triclosan, Triple dye
2.	<p>To what extent does your congregation address litter, especially after activities and, in day-to-day grounds keeping?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the grounds daily and remove litter and debris. • Promote, organize, and implement all events as litter-free events. • Enlist volunteers to assist participants to place their recyclables, compostables, and trash in the appropriate containers during events (in addition to signs). • Provide a recognition program for youth, staff, and adults assisting in the litter education/prevention program.
3.	<p>To what extent does your congregation select and maintain native plant landscaping and use as indoor seasonal plants and decorations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve native local vegetation, especially mature trees. Plant native trees for shade around building, especially on south and west sides. Choose and maintain native trees, bushes, and shrubs that require minimal pruning. • Landscape with slow growing, drought tolerant native plants or groundcovers that require little or no fertilizer or pest control measures. Consult with your county extension program, e.g. - http://www.extension.iastate.edu/linn/news/drought-or-low-rainfall-gardening • Native plants and cut native flowers promote the beauty of our local ecosystems.
4.	<p>To what extent do your outdoor spaces demonstrate environmental stewardship and provide opportunities for community conversations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve youth and staff in the implementation and use of rain barrels, rain gardens, storm water infiltration, community or container vegetable gardens, native habitat for birds, pollinators and butterflies, and invasive species identification and removal. • Install bike racks and make buildings and grounds more pedestrian friendly to promote walking. • Create on-site informational signage to explain stewardship features and beneficial impacts.
5.	<p>To what extent does your congregation have fruit, vegetable and or edible landscape plants growing on-site and available for feeding families, the hungry, and just foraging and enjoying?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://themennonite.org/feature/edible-landscaping/ - “Can landscaping be beautiful and edible? Absolutely. When concerns have risen about safety and sustainability of

	<p>foods, there is no better time than now to begin planting aesthetic edibles....”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.throopuupasadena.org/in-the-news.html - “What kind of landscaping embodies the love and stewardship that are expressions of a spiritual way of life? Native and edible. Native, because it honors creation and is the foundation of the food web, feeding the pollinators, birds and other creatures that deliver essential ecosystem services for people and planetary health....” • Edible landscape species: fruit trees, berry bushes, strawberries, grape vines, herbs
6.	<p>To what extent is your congregation’s landscape debris mulched-mowed, composted, or used beneficially? (<i>Leaves, grass cuttings, tree and shrub trimmings, fallen branches...</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut grass on a regular basis and remove no more than one-third of the grass blade at any one time to maintain good root growth. (<i>most grass varieties: leave 3” to 4”</i>) • Keep mower blades sharp. • Leave grass clippings on the ground if your lawn is mowed regularly and you follow mowing practices producing short clippings that decompose quickly. • If you collect grass clippings, compost your clippings on or off-site. • In many cases you can effectively mulch mow leaves. • Increase water penetration into soil by aerating every 2-3 years. • Direct appropriate shrub and tree trimmings and branches to beneficial uses: wood chips, firewood, etc.
7.	<p>To what extent does your congregation use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to reduce the use and exposure to indoor and outdoor toxic materials? (<i>Insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides...</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve, implement, and monitor an Integrated Pest Management Policy and Program. http://www.cityofdubuque.org/ipm • Use landscape and gardening products with toxic ingredients as infrequently as possible. • Practice good sanitation and proper maintenance of structures and grounds to discourage pest problems, e.g. keep floors and kitchens clean reduce ant problems (decrease need for considering ant poison), keep downspouts clean with proper drainage away from building (to discourage termites), caulk and seal structural cracks where pests could enter. • First consider non-chemical pest control methods: trapping, swatting, hand removal, attractants. • Choose the least toxic procedure or product available for each specific pest problem.

IV. FOOD	
1.	To what extent does your congregation sponsor or participate in food drives, provide community meals to feed the hungry, provide volunteers at food pantries and to feed the hungry at soup kitchens?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host food collection drives at holidays and other times throughout the year for local food pantries. • Dubuque food pantries: Food Pantry at 1598 Jackson Street, Hope House on Locust Street, St Stephens Food Bank on Cedar Cross (warehouse used by other local food pantries). • Organize groups to volunteer at local homeless shelters: cooking meals, hosting or serving (e.g. Dubuque Rescue Mission) • Host a “Community Table” free meal event(s) on a regular, seasonal or annual basis – primary purpose of the event should be community gathering to share food. • Create a mobile food pantry or a ministry to deliver assistance directly to needy families. Transportation can often be a barrier to getting even free food.
2.	<p>To what extent does your congregation support and purchase fair trade and healthy local food and produce?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and educate congregation members on What is Fair Trade? http://fairtradeusa.org/what-is-fair-trade <i>Fair Trade Certified™ products were made with respect to people and planet. Our rigorous social, environmental and economic standards work to promote safe, healthy working conditions, protect the environment, enable transparency, and empower communities to build strong, thriving businesses. When you choose products with the Fair Trade label, your day-to-day purchases can improve an entire community’s day-to-day lives.</i> • Examples for coffee: sell, promote and use this coffee exclusively to set example and educate – www.GroundsForChange.com , www.EqualExchange.coop • Promote shopping at local summer and winter farmers markets – with brochures and information available to congregation members • Organize a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) drop-off at your facility. Regional CSA’s: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Honey Hill Organic Farm in Potosi, WI (Saturday & Tuesday deliveries to Dubuque) - http://www.honeyhillorganic.com/ ○ Two Onion Farm in Belmot, WI 608-762-5335 farmer@twoonionfarm.com (Friday deliveries to Dubuque) - http://www.twoonionfarm.com/ ○ Small Family Farm in Verona, WI (Wednesday deliveries to Dubuque) - http://www.smallfamilycsa.com/ Pick-up locations: http://www.smallfamilycsa.com/purchase/pick-up-locations ○ Tree of Life Organic Farm in Cuba City, WI 608-744-2734 (Wednesday deliveries to Dubuque) - http://treeoflifecsa.com/
3.	<p>To what extent are vending machines, soda and processed packaged snacks discouraged on congregational property?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove and/or ban vending machines with packaged snacks and sugary drinks from congregational property. • Discourage packaged, manufactured, and processed junk food and drinks from congregation events, including youth events. Encourage healthier and environmentally-friendly alternatives.

4.	<p>To what extent are your leftovers from food events both tracked and used beneficially to feed others?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share or donate unused food to programs serving meals to the hungry. • Does your congregation know about and understand the Good Samaritan law pertaining to food donations? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Federal Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act: On October 1, 1996, President Clinton signed this act to encourage donation of food and grocery products to non-profit organizations for distribution to individuals in need. This law: Protects you from liability when you donate to a non-profit organization; Protects you from civil and criminal liability should the product donated in good faith later cause harm to the recipient; Standardizes donor liability exposure. You or your legal counsel do not need to investigate liability laws in 50 states.... <p>http://www.feedingamerica.org/ways-to-give/give-food/become-a-product-partner/protecting-our-food-partners.html?referrer=https://www.bing.com/</p>
5.	<p>To what extent are “food scraps” composted through city collection, onsite, or in congregants’ backyard composters? <i>(Food preparation residuals, plate scraping and leftovers)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize local composting opportunities or farms that will accept appropriate food scrap residuals. Consider asking congregants to take food scraps for farm animal feeding. • City of Dubuque Food Scrap Recycling program – www.cityofdubuque.org/483/Food-Scrap-Recycling • Consider composting opportunities that also accept compostable paper and certified compostable utensils.

V. WATER	
1.	<p>To what extent does your congregation promote and utilize consumption of safe tap water and avoid purchasing water in disposable plastic bottles?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discontinue supplying bottled water at congregational events. • Using water from drinking fountains takes advantage of local resources and avoids production and transportation costs involved in bottled water products. • Encourage use of refillable water bottles.
2.	<p>To what extent are low-flow aerators and dual-flush fixtures used in sinks, toilets, and showers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace inefficient toilets with WaterSense labeled models. • Considering installing waterless urinals.
3.	<p>To what extent are phosphate-free, biodegradable detergents and non-toxic cleaning products used?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The city sanitary sewer system supplying the Water Resource and Recovery Center (Dubuque) cannot effectively remove all phosphates and many other chemicals from passing into the Mississippi River. This is typical of city wastewater treatment plants. Phosphates produce algae growth in streams and rivers.
4.	<p>To what extent is rainwater captured in rain barrels or cisterns for indoor and outdoor non-potable uses? (<i>Landscape, garden plants...</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rain barrels can be purchased at Home & Garden Centers such as Lowes, Sam's Club, Ace Hardware, Theissens and more. Attached them to roof downspouts to capture roof runoff and use the water for watering gardens, landscaping or to fill water pots for indoor plants. Consider purchasing one annually as part of your regular budgeting until all downspouts are mitigated. Rain barrels can be painted and/or decorated as part of the landscaping to enhance grounds.
5.	<p>To what extent does your congregation manage quantity/quality of storm water runoff from impervious surfaces (<i>roofs, drives, parking lots...</i>) and direct runoff to on-site use? (<i>infiltration, bioretention, rain gardens...</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water from parking lots or sidewalks directed onto rock or planted areas instead of directly to gutters and catch basins promotes infiltration and groundwater recharge. • Does your property have a green alley or other features that encourage stormwater recharge? Recharge mimics nature's filtration system to clean water re-entering the water supply vs. runoff which carries pollutants directly to waterways. • Plant a rain garden on your property. A rain garden is a shallow depression that is planted with deep-rooted native plants. The garden should be positioned near a runoff source like a downspout or driveway to capture rainwater runoff and slow/decrease water from reaching the sewer system. By installing a rain garden on you property or even using the principles of a rain garden in your landscaping, you can greatly increase your contribution to preserving clean rainwater, creating habitat and

	preventing local flooding and water pollution.
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	VI. AIR
1.	<p>To what extent are all exhaust fans vented outside?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooking activities and toxic cleaning products generate indoor air pollution.
2.	<p>To what extent are low or non-VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) paints and finishes used?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Some of the most harmful chemicals found in paint are volatile organic compounds, or VOCs. VOCs are unstable, carbon-containing compounds that readily vaporize into the air. When they enter the air, they react with other elements to produce ozone, which causes air pollution and a host of health issues including breathing problems, headache, nausea; some are linked to cancer, kidney and liver damage.</i> http://home.howstuffworks.com/home-improvement/construction/materials/low-voc-paint.htm
3.	<p>To what extent does your congregation assess indoor and outdoor fine particle (PM 2.5) air pollution?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution by particulate matter smaller than 2.5 microns (PM2.5) is an important issue. Parts of eastern Iowa and Western Illinois have unhealthy air days during some portions of the year. • Air Beams to check and monitor fine particle air pollution may be borrowed from the CLEAR4 Project (<i>Sustainable Dubuque, Green Dubuque, University of Iowa...</i>) http://www.ihr.uiowa.edu/clear4/about/ - CLE4R is a collaborative effort between the University of Iowa, the City of Dubuque, and Dubuque-area partners to improve air quality in Dubuque and the surrounding Upper Mississippi River Valley communities. The “CLEAR” in CLE4R stands for CLEAn Air in the River Valley. The “4” in CLE4R stands for Environmental Education, Technology, Partnerships, and Planning. CLE4R was started in October 2015 and is funded by the EPA.
4.	<p>To what extent are strategies used to reduce vehicle-idling air pollution on congregational premises?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a no-idling policy at times when groups are meeting in vehicles for carpooling or other purposes. Educate congregants that vehicles idling creates unnecessary toxics, carbon monoxide and Green House Gas (GHG) emissions, and wastes fuel and money, e.g. the City of Dubuque established an operational policy with a 5-minute maximum for non-essential city-owned fleet vehicle idling.
5.	<p>To what extent are raking, sweeping and vacuuming used to remove dirt, grass clippings, and leaves from congregational pavement, curbs, and gutters?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular sweeping and pavement cleaning reduces stormwater pollution. Debris should be composted or discarded in a place other than landfill waste where organics create methane - a Green House Gas (GHG).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaf blowers cause significant airborne pollution.
<h2>VII. EDUCATION AND WORSHIP</h2>	
<p>1.</p>	<p>To what extent are congregants involved in promoting and implementing green programs and environmental practices in the wider community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement and support of Iowa Interfaith Power & Light local chapter and utilization of resources from similar organizations: Iowa IPL - http://iowaipl.org/ - <i>The mission of Iowa Interfaith Power & Light (Iowa IPL) is to inspire and equip people of faith to become leaders finding solutions to climate change. Iowa IPL is a statewide organization that is mobilizing the religious community to become leaders in the movement for climate action through education, assistance with carbon footprints reductions, and advocacy for sustainable energy policies.</i> • Green Faith - www.greenfaith.org – <i>Inspiring, educating and mobilizing people of diverse religious backgrounds for environmental leadership.</i> • Earth Ministry - http://earthministry.org/ - <i>Earth Ministry has been a national leader in engaging the faith community in environmental stewardship and advocacy. Our Greening Congregations Program was the first in the country to help houses of worship implement sustainable practices, and our advocacy program is on the cutting edge of empowering clergy and lay leaders to speak out on public policy issues.</i> • Member involvement in local green organizations: gardening groups, Green Dubuque, city environmental commission, watershed boards, biking coalition, Tri-State TrailVision, tree planting. List opportunities to be involved and keep a list of local green organizations with affiliations for resources and partnerships.
<p>2.</p>	<p>To what extent do communications, events and practices address environmental and social justice issues? (<i>Care of Creation, simple living, clean energy, clean water...</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize a regular Earth Day event at the congregation. • Use media releases to inform the community of your congregation’s sustainability efforts. • Give downsizing items a second life by organizing book swaps and rummage sales. • Set up “swap” areas on program tables to share informational brochures, usable items, and surplus garden produce. • Encourage congregants to walk, bike or use mass transit. • Develop a carpooling system for services and program participation.
<p>3.</p>	<p>To what extent do preaching, teaching, youth programs, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School address environmental and social justice issues?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a youth Green Team to promote and help implement programs to encourage environmental practices. • Review and consider consider religious education materials that incorporate environmental and and social justice issues.

	<p>Greening Churches Guide – Cultivating Hope by Luther College, Decorah, Iowa - http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org/Home/congregations/manuals-for-use-by-congregations/cultivating-hope-greening-churches-guide Topics covered within this guide for congregations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Faith, social justice and sustainability; stewardship, energy and water, waste, land community gardens. ○ Lessons on ecological footprint, energy stewardship, energy audit scavenger hunt, waste and stewardship, into the wilderness outdoor bible study, rock painting, mediation and art, living simply, garden harvest celebration ○ Greening worship and examples
4.	<p>To what extent does your congregation address environmental and social justice concerns with staff, congregation leaders and committees? (<i>Climate change, water pollution, overconsumption...</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include these discussions in staff and committee meetings, and include on agenda items with the goal of increasing eco-literacy.

	<p>VIII. MOVING FORWARD</p>
1.	<p>To what extent has your congregation compiled a list of priorities and an overall written plan with milestones and next steps identified in this assessment process?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Green Assessment should be the basis for determining how and where to move forward. • Expand the congregational “Green Team” to help forward the process of approving and implementing Care of Creation improvements and processes. • The Written Plan should include principles, overall priorities, and specific goals in each area with identified timelines for each goal. <p>www.coolcongregations.org/start-up-kit/start-up-kit-for-congregations/25-steps/</p>
2.	<p>To what extent is your congregation reporting progress on green assessment improvements?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A periodic progress report is recommended to show the congregation improvements and accomplishments.