



Church Facilities Resources

For Healthy, Energy-Efficient, Eco-Friendly Churches

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This publication is a companion to EarthCare's guide [Eco-Management of Church Facilities](http://www.earthcareonline.org), available on the web at www.earthcareonline.org.

“For every house is built by someone,
but God is the builder of everything.” (Hebrews 3:4, NIV)

■ General Facilities Resources

Ecumenical

EarthCare, Inc.

[Eco-Management of Church Facilities](http://www.earthcareonline.org)

[online guide – 11 pages]

By Olin M. Ivey. Chattanooga, TN: EarthCare, Inc., 2001, rev. 2008.

Available free online: www.earthcareonline.org

This EarthCare guide offers basic steps for churches that wish to manage their church facilities and grounds in an environmentally-responsible manner. Topics discussed include: a scriptural basis for eco-management, comprehensive planning, grounds and landscaping, energy conservation, water conservation, office management, and additional resources.

Earth Ministry

Greening Congregations Handbook: Stories, Ideas, and Resources for Cultivating Creation Awareness and Care in Your Congregation

[book – 225 pages]

By Tanya Marcovna Barnett. Seattle: WA: Earth Ministry, 2002. Available for purchase from: Earth Ministry earthministry.org/Congregations/handbook.htm (206) 632-2426. (\$30 plus shipping).

This book is a toolbox for those who want to foster creation care in their churches. The *Handbook* is divided into three sections and appendices: **Section 1:** Readings for individuals or groups that provide theological and ethical foundations for creation. **Section 2:** Four different pathways for fostering creation care, with stories of how churches have grown their creation care ministries. **Section 3:** Resources for

implementing strategies in different areas, including getting, mission statements, worship, education, institutional life, and community outreach. **Appendices:** worship resources, quotes, and worksheets.

Eco-Justice Ministries

[Healthy Families, Healthy Environment – Your Church](http://healthyfamiliesnow.org)

[website – 11 pages]

Healthy Families, Healthy Environment.

Available free online:

<http://healthyfamiliesnow.org/Article.asp-Record=1054.html>

Includes sections on: maintaining the church building and grounds, educating the church, and the church's neighborhood and community.

[Quick Tips for Including Eco-Justice in Church Administration](http://eco-justice.org)

[web page – 4 pages, printed]

Denver, CO: Eco-Justice Ministries.

Available free online: <http://eco-justice.org/tips-a.asp>

A list of tips for eco-friendly church administration, buildings, and grounds.

National Council of Churches

101 Ways to Help Save the Earth: With 52 Weeks of Congregational Activities to Save the Earth

[book – 35 pages]

Washington, DC: Greenhouse Crisis Foundation; New York: National Council of Churches of Christ, 1992. Available for purchase from: NCC Eco-Justice Programs (800) 762-0968. www.ncccojustice.org/printedresources.htm (Item EJ 9420, \$5.00)

This resource contains 101 things to do in the home, garden, market, office and on the road and 52 weeks of congregational activities to help save the earth.

Environmental Justice Covenant Congregations Program Form

[form – 4 pages]

National Council of Churches.

Available for purchase from: NCC Eco-Justice Programs (800) 762-0968.

www.nccecojustice.org/printedresources.htm. (Item EJ 9790, \$0.25 each or 100 for \$10.00). The front page of this form is printed on heavier paper and is suitable for framing (item EJ 1005, \$0.50).

This four-page form describes the Environmental Justice Covenant Congregations Program, through which congregations commit to be engaged or will continue to be engaged in environmental justice.

Web of Creation

Environmental Guide for Congregations, Their Buildings, Their Grounds

[online book – 110 pages]

By David Rhoads. Chicago: Web of Creation; Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, 2006.

Available free online:

<http://webofcreation.org/Environmental%20Guide.pdf>

Faithful Earthkeeping: The Church as a Creation Awareness Center

[video – 3 parts]

Chicago: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 1997.

Available for purchase from: NCC Eco-Justice Programs (800) 762-0968. www.nccecojustice.org/printedresources.htm (Item EJ 9735, \$16.00).

This three-part video includes The Biblical Call to Earthkeeping (21 minutes), Creation's Praise... Creation's Cry (27 minutes) and Earthkeeping: The Church Responds (31 minutes).

Training Manual for The Green Congregation Program

[online book – 86 pages]

Edited by David Glover and David Rhoads. Web of Creation, 2006.

Available free online:

<http://webofcreation.org/FinishedCompleteGC.pdf>

This manual is designed to train a small group of lay people and clergy to bring care for creation into the full life and mission of the congregation. This resource offers information on how to develop a plan for developing earth ministry in the local church congregation, including: setting congregational goals, the creation of a Green Team (or an Earth Ministry Team), and developing a comprehensive action plan.

Government-Sponsored

Green Faith Guide

[online book – 72 pages]

Washington, DC: District of Columbia Energy Office, 2004.

Available free online:

www.gwipl.org/documents/dcGreenFaithGuide.pdf

Available for purchase from: Washington D.C. Energy Office (202) 673-6700.

This guide gives practical information on a number of topics, including green building, landscaping, pesticides, and energy use. It also includes a section on "How to Pay for Improvements."

Putting Energy into Stewardship: Energy Star for Congregations Guide. See also page 7 for information about EPA's [Energy Star for Congregations](http://www.epa.gov/energy_star_for_congregations) program.

Denominational

Catholic

Eco-Church: An Action Manual

[book – 126 pages]

By Albert Fritsch, S. J., with Angela Iadavaia-Cox. San Jose, CA: Resource Publications, Inc., 1992. Available for purchase from: Fr. Al Fritsch, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church, 316 Fifth Street, Ravenna, KY 40472-1312. \$14.95. www.earthhealing.info/pub.htm. AB2. \$14.95.

This manual is a step-by-step guide to how churches can become more sensitive to the needs of the earth. The process includes auditing the church facility by asking questions, considering ways that worship can strengthen and enhance environmental awareness, evaluating personal lifestyles, and creating a plan of action that extends to the larger world.

Evangelical

Let the Earth Be Glad!: A Starter Kit for Evangelical Churches to Care for God's Creation

[kit – booklets, 3 folded posters, misc. materials]

By Victoria Looz; Ericka Albaugh; Evangelical Environmental Network; World Vision. Wynnewood, PA: Evangelical Environmental Network, [1994].

Available for purchase from: Evangelical Environmental Network www.creationcare.org/resources/ (800) 650-6600. (\$10.00).

Staff members from the Evangelical Environmental Network and World Vision have compiled articles and other resources for this kit. Churches may use this kit to plan a Sunday worship service devoted to the topic or use portions throughout the year to integrate creation care into all aspects of church life. The textual material is divided into four booklets for easy use: Biblical Roots, Seeds of Worship, Supporting Branches, and Fruits of Creation.

The Lord's House: A Guide to Creation Careful Management of Church Facilities

[book – 86 pages]

By Frederick W. Krueger. Wynnewood, Pa.: Christian Society of the Green Cross; Shakopee, Minn.: Macalester Park Books, 1995.

Available for purchase from: Evangelical Environmental Network www.creationcare.org/resources/ (800) 650-6600. (\$7.00).

Practical information, checklists, and forms that lead you step by step to better creation-care of your church building, including how to become more energy efficient, how to do landscaping and care for the grounds, and how to construct creation-friendly buildings.

Lutheran

ELCA Environmental Audit Guide: For Congregations, Schools, and Other Groups

[online guide – 15 pages]

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 2004.

Available free online:

<http://archive.elca.org/advocacy/environment/envaudit.pdf>
(800) 638-3522

A simple, easy to use resource for congregations and church groups to assist them in reducing their environmental impact, this guide is organized into one-page sections covering various environmental topics. Each section may be used separately and includes an explanation of the topic, suggested activities, and additional resources. The final pages of the guide provide a checklist for recording progress.

Presbyterian

Healing and Defending God's Creation: Hands On! Practical Ideas for Congregations, Vol. 11

[book – 144 pages]

By Vera K. White. Louisville, KY: Presbyterian Church (USA), [1992].

Available for purchase from: Presbyterian Distribution Service (800) 524-2612.

<http://www.pcusa.org/environment/earthday/eday-resource.htm> (\$4.95).

Concrete ideas and resources to help your congregation with new efforts in worship, education, personal and congregational life-style, and public policy and community involvement.

Quaker

How Eco-Friendly is Your Meeting House?: A Five-Star Rating System

[pamphlet / web page – 4 pages, printed]

From Canadian Yearly Meeting's Quaker Ecology-Action Network. Quaker Earth Witness Pamphlet.

Available free online:

<http://quakerearthcare.org/Publications/WebPamphlets/meetinghouse.htm>

An online brochure with questions designed to examine and inspire houses of worship to care for creation.

■ Children and Youth

See also [Health](#) on page 8 of this guide.

Art Supplies

Art & Creative Materials Institute: Certified Product Database

[website / database of non-toxic art supplies]

www.acminet.org/CPListSearch.html

ACMI sponsors a certification program for art materials for children and artists, evaluating them for both acute and chronic hazards, quality, and performance. To identify non-toxic art supplies, search their database by product category, company name, or ACMI seal type. For an explanation of seal types, visit their [FAQ page](#).

Crayon Recycle Program

[website]

www.crazycrayons.com/recycle_program.html

Crazy Crayons, Crayon Recycling Program, LAF Lines, Ltd., 721 Village Rd., Pelican Lake, WI 54463.
(800) 561-0922.

This program collects crayons for recycling and sells recycled crayons.

Children's Health

Healthy Families, Healthy Environment

[web pages]

Children's Special Vulnerabilities

www.healthyfamiliesnow.org/Article.asp-Record=1060.html

Pregnancy and Mothers of Newborns

www.healthyfamiliesnow.org/Article.asp-Record=1093.html

Your Child's School

www.healthyfamiliesnow.org/Article.asp-Record=1056.html

Church Involvement

Healthy Families, Healthy Environment: Involving Children and Youth at Church

[web pages]

www.healthyfamiliesnow.org/Article.asp-Record=1090.html

Nurseries and Preschools

How Green Is Your Nursery?

[online fact sheet – 1 page]

By Debra Lynn Dadd. GreenHomeGuide.com, 2004.

Available free online:

www.greenhomeguide.com/pdfs/nursery.pdf

A 1-page guide that lists basic ways to create a healthy environment for babies and toddlers.

Non-Toxic Preschools: You Can Find and Eliminate Environmental Hazards in Your Early Care and Education Program

[online article – 1 page]

Children's Advocate. January/February 2004.

Available free online: Html version:

www.4children.org/news/104cc.htm

Pdf version: <http://www.4children.org/pdf/104cc.pdf>

An article published from the magazine *Children's Advocate* that briefly explains easy ways that childcare programs may make their facilities healthier for children.

Schools

Green Building for Schools

[web page / links to online resources]

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

www.pca.state.mn.us/oea/ee/greenschools.cfm

This web page lists books and websites that offer information about healthy schools, much of which could be applied to churches. Resources waste prevention and management, purchasing, indoor air quality, outdoor air quality, integrated pest management, energy, daylighting, landscaping, water conservation, and educational resources.

Toys

EcoBusinessLinks

[website / online store links]

www.ecobusinesslinks.com/natural_toys.htm

National Geographic Green Guide

[website / articles and online store links]

Product Report: Toys (November 2006)

www.thegreenguide.com/reports/product.mhtml?id=65&sec=2

Click "print this article" to view the entire article with links to online stores.

Toy SSC: Non-Toxic Toys (November/December 2004)

www.thegreenguide.com/doc/105/toys

Test Toys for Lead (September 5, 2007)

www.thegreenguide.com/blog/tow/910

This Year's Hot Toys (November 2006)

www.thegreenguide.com/doc/117/hottoys

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission:

Toy Hazard Recalls

[website / recall list]

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/category/toy.html

■ Church Grounds (Lawns, Gardens, Lighting, and Parking Lots)

Lawn Care

The Organic Lawn Care Manual: A Natural, Low-Maintenance System for a Beautiful, Safe Lawn

[book – 271 pages]

By Paul Tukey. North Adams, MA: Storey Publishing, 2007. Available for purchase from: storey.com, amazon.com, and other major bookstores.

A guide for creating a lush green lawn without chemicals or pesticides.

Organic Gardening and Composting

Composting: Creating Good Dirt – Healthy Families, Healthy Environment

[web page]

www.healthyfamiliesnow.org/Article.asp-Record=1087.html

Basic instructions for using yard and food wastes to create healthy dirt.

DirtDoctor: Natural Organic Gardening & Living

[website / radio program] www.dirtdoctor.com

To listen to the radio program visit:

www.dirtdoctor.com/content.php?code=radio

The Dirt Doctor website is the online version of Howard Garrett's basic organic program. The site includes information for beginners as well as experienced gardeners. The site offers organic recipes for lawn care and gardens. Howard Garrett is a popular host of an organic gardening radio show in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area.

Let It Rot!: The Gardener's Guide to Composting

[book – 160 pages]

North Adams, MA: Storey Publishing, 1998.

Available for purchase from: storey.com, amazon.com, and other major bookstores

This book offers valuable advice for starting and maintaining a composting system, building bins, and using compost.

Organic Lawn and Gardening Stores:

[websites / local and online stores]

Check with your locally-owned garden stores. They will often order supplies for you if they don't have what you need in stock. Also, large chain hardware and gardening stores are beginning to sell more organic products.

Chattanooga Area:

Holcomb Garden Center, Hixson TN

www.holcombgardencenters.com Sells organic gardening and pest control products.

Online Organic Garden Directories and Stores:

Directory of Organic Garden Suppliers (by SafeLawns.org)

www.safelawns.org/resource_directory.cfm

Biocontrol Network, Brentwood, TN – biconet.com

DirtWorks, New Haven, VT – dirtworks.net

Extremely Green, Abington, MA – extremelygreen.com

Xeriscaping (Landscaping for Water Conservation)

See also "Native Plants" section just below.

Xeriscape Color Guide: 100 Water-Wise Plants for Gardens and Landscapes.

Edited by David Winger. Fulcrum Publishing, 1998. 62 pages.

Available for purchase from: amazon.com, and other major bookstores

Xeriscape Handbook: A How to Guide to Natural, Resource-Wise Gardening.

By Gayle Weinstein. Fulcrum Publishing, 1999. 172 pages.

Available for purchase from: amazon.com, and other major bookstores

Xeriscape Plant Guide: 100 Water-Wise Plants for Gardens and Landscapes.

By Denver Water Dept. Fulcrum Publishing, 1999. 192

pages. Available for purchase from: amazon.com, and other major bookstores

Native Plants

Gardening with the Native Plants of Tennessee

[book – 355 pages]

By Margie Hunter. University of Tennessee Press, 2003.

Available for purchase from: amazon.com, and other major bookstores

Corresponding website with book updates and native plant links: www.gardeningwithnativeplants.com

This book offers information about the diverse geography and plant communities of Tennessee, recommends plants that attract wildlife, includes a summary chart of plant species, and contains useful information about exotic pest plants.

Gardening with Native Plants of the South

[book – 208 pages]

By Sally Wasowski. Taylor Publishing, 1994.

Available for purchase from: amazon.com, and other major bookstores.

National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils

[website / links to invasive plant websites] www.naepcc.org

Links to regional native plant resources.

Native Plants for Your Backyard

[online fact sheet – 2 pages]

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Available free online: www.se-eppc.org/pubs/pubback7.pdf

This fact sheet recommends native plants and lists websites and books for native plant gardening.

Georgia:

Georgia Native Plant Society

[website / online brochures] www.gnps.org

Offers the brochure entitled “Gardening with Native Plants” that lists native plant recommendations.

www.gnps.org/pdf/GNPSBroc1.pdf and

www.gnps.org/pdf/GNPSBroc2.pdf

Tennessee:

Reflection Riding Arboretum & Botanical Garden (Chattanooga, Tennessee)

[website] www.reflectionriding.org

Reflection Riding offers gardening workshops and holds a native plant sale in the spring and fall.

Tennessee – Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council

[website / online brochures]

www.se-eppc.org/pubs/landscape.html

This website offers brochures entitled “Landscaping with Native Plants in Tennessee” that contain plant lists native plant recommendations for East, Middle, and West Tennessee regions.

Your State:

To locate native plant organizations your state, see:

Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center: National Organizations Directory

[website] www.wildflower.org/organizations/

Gardening for Wildlife

National Wildlife Federation

[website / habitat certification application] www.nwf.org

The NWF website offers information on creating a wildlife habitat in your yard. The information, while not written specifically for churches, may be used to create wildlife habitats at home, church, or anywhere in the community. Churches, like families, may apply to become a certified national wildlife habitat. To apply, visit www.nwf.org/backyard/ and click on the “Certify Your Habitat” link.

Community Gardens

American Community Gardening Association

[website] <http://communitygarden.org>

The ACGA is a nonprofit organization that promotes “community food and ornamental gardening, urban forestry, preservation and management of open space, and integrated planning and management of developing urban and rural lands.” Through their website, the ACGA offers online and print resources for establishing community gardens.

Lighting

Dark Sky Best Choice Lighting

[website] www.darksky.org

International Dark Sky Association. Recommendations:

This International Dark Sky Association’s website discusses the benefits of using shielded lighting outdoors. These benefits include protecting biorhythms of wildlife, shielding drivers of dangerous glare, protecting neighbors from sleep-disrupting light, and crime reduction. It also recommends particular light fixtures that meet dark sky criteria.

To use the Dark Sky website to locate retailers, either follow individual manufacturers’ links, or visit the following online stores:

Green Earth Lighting www.greeneearthlighting.com

Starry Night Lights www.starrynightlights.com

EFI Store for Interfaith Power & Light

[online store]

Sells energy-efficient products for churches.

Parking Lots

See also [Roofing Products](#) under [Construction and Remodeling](#) on page 7 of this guide.

Cool Communities (Atlanta, GA)

[website] www.coolcommunities.org

Cool Communities is a non-profit coalition of public and private organizations who support “improving and conserving energy by promoting the use of lighter, reflective roofing and paving materials in combination with strategically planted shade trees as a desirable design ‘system.’”

Heat Island Effect Guides

[online guides]

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Available free online:

What Can Be Done

<http://epa.gov/heatisland/strategies>

Trees and Vegetation

<http://epa.gov/heatisland/strategies/vegetation.html>

Vegetation and Air Quality

http://epa.gov/heatisland/strategies/level3_vegairquality.html

■ Church Office

[Green Office Guide: A Guide to Greening Your Bottom Line Through a Resource Efficient Office Environment](#)

[online book – 46 pages]

Portland, OR: City of Portland. Office of Sustainable Development, 2001.

Available free online:

http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/CONS/BUS/docs/Green_Office_Guide.pdf

This book gives helpful information for greening any office, whether home, church, or business.

Office Paper Retail Sources:

Chlorine-Free Products Association

[website] www.chlorinefreeproducts.org/endorsed.htm#

Green Seal

[website] www.greenseal.org/findaproduct/

■ Cleaning

Better Basics for the Home: Simple Solutions for Less Toxic Living

[book, 352 pages]

By Annie Berthold-Bond. Three Rivers Press, 1991.

Available for purchase from: amazon.com and other book stores

This book offers more than 800 recipes for addressing a wide range of homemaking needs, including cleaning, personal hygiene, and gardening. Much of the information can be useful for use in church facilities and activities.

Graffiti Remover Research and Field Test Report: The Search for Safer Projects

[online book – 26 pages]

By Stacy Stack. Center for a New American Dream in cooperation with the City of Portland, OR, 2003.

Available free online:

www.responsiblepurchasing.org/publications/Graffiti_Report.pdf

This report rates cleaning products by effectiveness and health risk.

[Green Clean Schools](#)

[website]

www.healthyschoolscampaign.org/campaign/green_clean_schools

This site offers information and resources for green cleaning, as well as news about upcoming green cleaning conferences and trade shows.

[Green Seal Certified Institutional Cleaning Products](#)

[web page, 31 pages printed]

Cleaners listed by manufacturer.

www.greenseal.org/findaproduct/i&icleaners.cfm

List of healthier cleaning products browsable by cleaner type or by manufacturer.

Organic Housekeeping

[book, 448 pages]

By Ellen Sandbeck. Scribner, 2006.

Available for purchase from: amazon.com and other book stores

This book offers a wide range of helpful information for creating a healthy home environment. Much of the information can also be applied to churches. Topics discussed are organizing and decluttering, cleaning the kitchen, organic food, food safety, healthy cooking, bathroom maintenance, healthier bedrooms, laundry, general cleaning, indoor air quality, hazardous materials, fire safety, home maintenance, lawns and gardens, and indoor and outdoor pests.

■ Construction and Remodeling

[Building a Firm Foundation: A Creation-Friendly Building Guide for Churches](#)

[online book – 34 pages]

National Council of Churches USA, 2006.

Available free online:

www.nccecojustice.org/network/downloads/ToolKit_4P.pdf
(800) 762-0968

A practical resource guide to building with energy efficient technologies and sustainable building techniques. Includes sections on going green and influencing the building process, building a good foundation, energy, water, church grounds and parking, and creation connections.

[Building Green](#)

[website] www.buildinggreen.com

Building Green is an independent company that provides print and electronic resources for designing and building construction projects from a whole-systems perspective, in order to minimize ecological impact and maximize economic performance. They are the publishers of *Environmental Building News*. For their general reference pages with links, see www.buildinggreen.com/menus/reference.cfm

Green Remodeling: Changing the World One Room at a Time

[book – 379 pages]

New Society Publishers, 2004

Available for purchase from: amazon.com and other major booksellers

This book is an informative guide to green remodeling for homes, but much of the information could be applied to churches, as well. *Green Remodeling* explains the environmental advantages to remodeling and how we can have a positive impact by making changes such as water-saving bathroom fixtures, careful selection of cabinetry, and upgrading a furnace.

[Green Seal](#)

[website] www.greenseal.org

Use the Green Seal site to search for environmentally-responsible products. Green Seal's certification process includes rigorous testing and evaluation, including on-site plant visits. Their work includes working with manufacturers, industry sectors, purchasing groups, and governments at all levels to "green" the production and purchasing chain. They

utilize a life-cycle approach, which means they evaluate a product or service beginning with material extraction, continuing with manufacturing and use, and ending with recycling and disposal.

GreenerBuildings

[website] www.greenerbuildings.com

A site produced by GreenBiz, Green Buildings provides information to help companies and institutions of all sizes to understand and address building design, construction, and operation in a way that aligns with environmental responsibility. This site offers information for the layperson and as well as technical resources for architects and builders.

Healthy Building Network

[website] www.healthybuilding.net

The Healthy Building Network is a national network of green building professions, environmental and healthy activities, socially responsible investment advocates and others who are interested in promoting healthier building materials as a means of improving public health and preserving the global environment.

Oikos Green Building Products

[website] www.oikos.com

A website with information and resources on sustainable design and construction. Many resources are written for building professionals, but can also be useful for churches and homeowners. The site offers articles about sustainable design, examples of particular building projects, and a bookstore.

Prescriptions for a Healthy House: A Practical Guide for Architects, Builders, and Homeowners

[book – 304 pages]

New Society Publishers, 2008.

Available for purchase from: amazon.com and other major booksellers

This book offers valuable information to homeowners and organizations about how to select healthier, non-toxic building materials and supplies. The discussion includes information about why particular standard building practices are not healthful, and what to do differently. One *very useful feature* of this book are the tables listing particular brands of products and where the products may be purchased.

Roofing Products:

See also the cool communities and heat island effect information under [Parking Lots](#) on page 5 of this guide.

Cool Metal Roofing

[website] www.coolmetalroofing.org

Information on metal roofing, including: research papers, news, rebates, and links to other resources.

Energy Star Reflective Roofing Products

[website]

www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=roof_prods.pr_roof_products

This U.S. government website offers information on the advantages of reflective roofs, including reduced cooling loads, lower energy bills, lower maintenance costs, better indoor air quality, reduced heat in the city (heat island effect).

Southface Online (Atlanta, GA)

[website] www.southface.org

Located in Atlanta, Georgia, Southface promotes sustainable, homes, workplaces and communities through education, research, advocacy and technical assistance.

Sustainable Buildings Industry Council

[website] www.sbicouncil.org

A non-profit organization whose mission is to “advance the design, affordability, energy performance, and environmental soundness of America’s buildings.” Their website offers technical information for architects and contractors.

U.S. Green Building Council

[website] www.usgbc.org

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is a coalition of leaders from across the building industry who promote environmentally responsible and healthy buildings. USGBC has developed a trademark green rating system for buildings known as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). Their website offers information on how a church may become LEED certified and technical information for architects and builders.

■ Energy Conservation and Savings

Compact Florescent Lights vs. Incandescent Bulbs: Energy and \$\$\$ Savings

[online guide, 2 pages]

Georgia Interfaith Power & Light.

Available free online:

http://gipl.org/pdf/Study_Guides/CFLIncandescentComparison.pdf

An online fact sheet about fluorescent bulbs.

Energy Star for Congregations

www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=small_business.sb_congregations

[website]

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

An EPA website that offers energy conservation resources and technical support to churches. One of the resources they offer is: [Putting Energy into Stewardship: Energy Star for Congregations Guide](#) [online book – 39 pages]. December 2007. It is a practical guide to cost-effective energy improvements for churches.

Energy Stewardship Congregations Brochure

[brochure]

National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program.

This brochure describes the help that is available to your congregation to consume less energy.

Order free: www.nccecojustice.org/printedresources.htm (item EJ 9925, free of charge)

Interfaith Power & Light (The Regeneration Project)

[website] www.theregenerationproject.org

A ministry that mobilizes a national religious response to global warming while promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation. Local and state chapters provide information and assistance to congregations who want to take energy-saving action in their facilities.

TVA Green Power Switch –

[program / website] tva.gov/greenpowerswitch
Participating Local Energy Distributors
www.tva.com/greenpowerswitch/distributors.htm
Renewable Energy Resources (Links)
tva.gov/greenpowerswitch/renewres.htm

Through the TVA Green Power Switch program, churches may purchase blocks of energy from renewable sources. TVA's renewal energy comes from wind-powered turbines, solar generation sites, and methane gas. Green Power Switch is sold in 150-kilowatt-hour blocks (about 12 percent of a typical home's monthly energy use) that cost an additional \$4 each. The dollars from every block of green power a church buys goes directly back into the Green Power Switch program.

■ **Event Planning**

Alternatives for Simple Living

[website / bookstore] www.simpleliving.org

Alternatives for Simple Living is "a non-profit organization that equips people of faith to challenge consumerism, live justly and celebrate responsibly." Through their website, they offer and sell resources for more simple Christian celebrations, as well as resources for other holidays and life activities.

Eco-Palms: Make Social and Environmental Justice Part of Your Parish's Palm Sunday Celebration

[program / web page] www.lwr.org/palms/index.asp
Order form for Palm Sunday 2008:
lwr.org/palms/2008PREorder.pdf

Eco-Palms is a program of Lutheran World Relief in which palms are grown, harvested, and sold in a sustainable manner so that: palms are not over-harvested; livelihood of communities and the biosphere are protected; harvesters are paid for the quality of palms, not the quantity; harvesters process and sell palms without middlemen; and workers receive a fair wage.

Fair Trade Coffee Programs:

By purchasing fair traded coffee through a fair trade program, churches help support fair wages, affordable credit to workers, and democratic cooperatives. Fair trade programs also support sustainable agricultural practices, which preserve the environment and allow families to build better lives for themselves and their communities for the long-term.

Interfaith. Equal Exchange

www.equalexchange.com/interfaith-program

Catholic www.crsfairtrade.org; www.equalexchange.com/crs

Church of the Brethren

www.brethren.org/genbd/witness/Peace/EqualExchange.htm ;
www.equalexchange.coop/brethren

Disciples of Christ www.equalexchange.com/doc/

Episcopal

www.episcopalchurch.org/1829_62399_ENG_HTML.htm ;
<http://store.puravidacoffeeshop.com/bishops-blend.html>

Lutheran www.lwr.org/coffee/ ; www.equalexchange.com/lwr

Mennonite <http://mcc.org/us/washington/programs/coffee/> ;
www.equalexchange.coop/mcc

Presbyterian www.pcusa.org/coffee/ ;

www.equalexchange.coop/pcusa

Quaker www.equalexchange.com/afsc

United Church of Christ www.equalexchange.com/ucc

United Methodist www.equalexchange.coop/umcor ;
<http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umcor/work/hunger/fair-trade/>

Green Event Planning Guide: Choose Environmental Excellence When You Plan Special Events

[online book – 44 pages]

Kansas City, MO: Bridging the Gap, [2006?].

Available free online:

<http://sustainability.ucsb.edu/purchasing/docs/pubs/Bridging-the-Gap-Green-Event-Manual.pdf>

This online book offers tips on preventing and reducing waste, recycling, and environmentally responsible buying.

Green Guidance: How to Plan Environmentally Responsible Events

[online guide/website]

United Methodist Women.

Available free online:

Html version: <http://gbqm-umc.org/umw/environmental/> (Click on the tips in menu on the right side of the screen).

Available for purchase from: National Council of Churches: www.ncccojustice.org/printedresources.htm (800) 762-0968 (item EJ 9905, \$6.00)

This guide offers practical information on green meeting planning and how to evaluate hotels on environmental criteria.

Organic Weddings: Balancing Ecology, Style and Tradition

[book – 192 pages]

By Michelle Kozin. New Society Publishers, 2003.

Available for purchase from: amazon.com, simpleliving.net, and other major bookstores.

This resource provides alternatives to the conventional wedding industry while still enabling couples to incorporate time-honored traditions, as well as meaningful details, that celebrate the bride and groom's own style and values.

■ **Health**

Health and the Environment

Your Health and the Environment: A Christian Perspective: A Study/Action Guide for Congregations

[book – 64 pages]

New York: Eco-Justice Working Group. National Council of Churches, 1998.

Available for purchase from: National Council of Churches www.ncccojustice.org/printedresources.htm (800) 762-0968 (EJ-9780); Brethren Press (800) 441-3712.

This study/action guide has thirteen sessions exploring the impact of the environment on human health. More information: www.brethren.org/genbd/health/health.htm

Indoor Air Quality

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) in Office Buildings and in Homes

[web page – 5 pages, printed]
Web of Creation.

Available free online:

www.webofcreation.org/BuildingGrounds/Toxins-Indoor%20Air.htm

This web page gives a brief overview of the problems, suggestions for addressing problems, and offers links to more information on the Internet.

An Office Building Occupant's Guide to Indoor Air Quality

[online guide – 11 pages]

Washington, DC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1997.

Available free online:

www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/occupgd.html#for%20more%20information (or) www.epa.gov/iaq/pdfs/occupants_guide.pdf

This guide is intended to help people who work in office buildings learn about the factors that contribute to indoor air quality and comfort problems and the roles of building managers and occupants in maintaining a good indoor environment. Because good indoor air quality depends on the actions of everyone in the building, a partnership between building management and occupants is the best way to maintain a healthy and productive work space.

U.S. EPA – Indoor Air Quality

www.epa.gov/iaq/index.html

[website]

This Environmental Protection website offers fact sheets about and links to information on indoor air quality, including: indoor air quality in schools, asthma, mold, radon, carbon monoxide, and other indoor air concerns.

Asthma

See also “Indoor Air Quality,” “Candles,” and “Scent-Reduced Churches” under [Health](#).

Healthy Families, Healthy Environment – Asthma

[web page]

www.healthyfamiliesnow.org/Article.asp-Record=1058.html

Basic information about asthma and environmental strategies for managing the condition. While the information is geared toward the home, several of the suggestions could be implemented in church settings.

Candles

Candles and the Pollutants Within

[online article]

Marietta, GA: Aerias Air Quality Sciences Resource Center.

Available free online:

www.aerias.org/DesktopModules/ArticleDetail.aspx?articleId=79

This article contains discussion about harmful substances that may be emitted from candles and gives recommendations for safer use of candles.

Sources for Beeswax and Soy Candles:

Church supply stores:

Monastery Greetings (Catholic / Cleveland, OH)
www.monasterygreetings.com

Moravian Book Shop (Moravian / Bethlehem, PA)
www.moravianstar.com

San Jose Candle (Orthodox / Jamestown, CA)
www.sanjosecandle.com

Their site outlines the advantages of beeswax candles for churches. (Scroll to the bottom of the beeswax page.)

Other Online retail stores:

Bluecorn Naturals (Rico, CO) – www.beeswaxcandles.com

Soulshine Beeswax Candles (Black Mountain, NC) –
www.esoulshine.com

Also check natural foods stores in your local area.

Scent-Reduced Churches

Is Your Church Making People Sick?: Creating an Environment with Less Chemicals and Chemical Fragrances

[online article / brochure]

Where Is God Ministries, 2005. Available online and for purchase from: www.whereisgod.net/zone.htm

This brochure gives brief information about the harmful effects that chemicals in perfumes and many common cleaners can have on parishioners' health.

Related website:

Campaign for Cleaner Indoor Air

www.cleanerindoorair.org/churches.htm Scroll to the bottom of the screen for flyers and posters for churches.

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Accessibility for United Methodists

[Section of book – 2 pages]

In *Accessibility Audit for Churches: A United Methodist Resource Book about Accessibility*, pages 9-10.

Available free online:

www.holoweb.com/survivors/UMC_Statement.htm;

<http://ncchem.com/accessi.htm>

In *The Accessibility Audit for Churches*, available from the Service Center, General Board of Global Ministries, 7820 Reading Road, Cincinnati, OH 45222, (800) 305-9857.

Towards a Scent-Free Environment

[online video]

The Lung Association (Canada).

Available free online:

www.nb.lung.ca/html/Programs/Indoor_Air_Quality/scents.htm

This site offers indoor air resources, including a helpful video that outlines the health effects of scents and other products in the workplace and how to develop a scent-reduction program in your organization.

■ Pest Management

Integrated Pest Management – Healthy Families, Healthy Environment

Available free online:

www.healthyfamiliesnow.org/Article.asp-Record=1086.html

Basic tips on reducing indiscriminate use of pesticides and techniques for healthier ways to manage pests.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Schools

www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/

[website] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

This U.S. EPA web page gives basic information about healthier pest management in schools and gives links to other Internet resources.

National School IPM Information Source

<http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/INDEX.html>

[website]

University of Florida.

This website recommends strategies and products for managing particular pest. It also lists links to state integrated pest management programs.

■ Purchasing

Energy Star Qualified Products

[website]

www.energystar.gov

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Use the website to search for energy-efficient appliances.

Environmental Choice Program

[website] www.environmentalchoice.com

Canada's internationally renowned environmental eco-labeling program.

Green Seal: Find a Certified Product/Service

[website] www.greenseal.org/findaproduct/index.cfm

Use the Green Seal site to search for environmentally-responsible products. Products receive Green Seal certification only after rigorous testing and evaluation, including on-site plant visits.

Responsible Purchasing for Faith Communities

[online book – 34 pages]

Tacoma Park, MD: Center for the New American Dream, 2002.

Available free online:

www.responsiblepurchasing.org/publications/RPG_Faith_Communities.pdf

The guide provides key purchasing steps congregations can take, outlines ways to undertake each action, and calculates the positive impact of those actions. It includes eight actions that have a significant environmental impact, help promote social justice, and are easy to implement.

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EarthCare
Caring for God's Creation

"The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."
(Psalm 24:1, KJV)