



RESPONSIBLE PURCHASING **GUIDE**

faith communities



Responsible Purchasing Network's Purchasing Guides

RPN bases our purchasing guides on [third-party verified standards](#) and [proven strategies](#) for meeting social and environmental goals. And, we meet the real-world need for readily available, cost-competitive, high-quality goods and services.

Current Responsible Purchasing Guides:

Bottled Water Alternatives	Light-Duty Fleets
Cleaners	Office Electronics
Computers	Paint
Fluorescent Lighting	Tires & Wheel Weights
Green Power	

Coming soon — Carpeting, Ink & Toner, and Paper.

"Our partnership with RPN and their expertise will contribute greatly to our goal of decreasing total vehicle emissions by 25% by 2013."

Ken Davies, Environmental Services Specialist,
City of San José, California
Environmental Services Department

Ready to get started?

Purchasing guides contain everything you want to know about products you need most. Guides include:

- Social & environmental issues
- Best practices
- Certifications and standards
- Sample policies and specifications
- Useful facts and statistics
- Searchable product listings

Purchasing Guides are free for members and available to non-members at www.ResponsiblePurchasing.org/publications or call 301.891.3683.

RPN is a project of The Center for A New American Dream



www.responsiblepurchasing.org

www.newdream.org



Responsible Purchasing for Faith Communities

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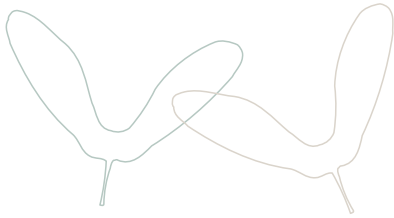
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The calculations used in this guide that denote the environmental savings were based on estimates derived from a variety of sources including the Environmental Protection Agency, *Stuff: the Secret Lives of Everyday Things* by John C. Ryan and Alan Thein Durning, Equal Exchange, National Audubon Society, Green Seal, Chemical and Engineering News Online, Direct Marketing Association, United States Postal Service, Conservatree, Seventh Generation and Georgia Pacific Paper. These estimates are intended to give participants an understanding of their environmental impact. A special thanks to Equal Exchange for contributing to the coffee section of this guide.

The Center for a New American Dream helps Americans consume responsibly to protect the environment, enhance quality of life and promote social justice. We work with individuals, institutions, communities and businesses to conserve natural resources, counter the commercialization of our culture, and promote positive changes in the way goods are produced and consumed.



DEAR FRIEND,

It is often a challenge to put our beliefs and values into action. We all want to make the world a better place for future generations. But it feels like there's so much to do, and we wonder if our efforts will matter.

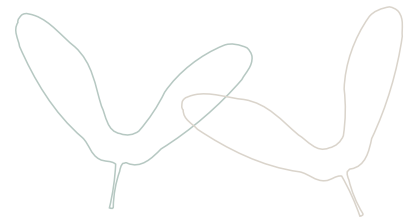
Individuals and small groups of people *do* have the power to make positive changes that benefit our neighbors, ourselves and the planet. Communities of faith have an important leadership role to play on issues of environmental and social justice. With every purchase we make, every piece of junk mail we eliminate, and every ounce of pesticide we don't use, we're making important choices and sending messages of hope and change to the rest of the world.

This Responsible Purchasing Program Guide, which lists eight concrete actions as well as many tips and resources, is a tool to help communities of faith make wise choices and contribute to a healthier environment and a more equitable world. Taking even a few of these actions can make a difference in the lives of others. And, by joining with thousands of people of faith taking steps together, you'll see that you are not alone.

As your congregation follows the steps outlined in the guide, we would love to hear from you. We hope that you will call on our Faith-Based Outreach Program staff if you have any questions, or if you want to report your progress and share the insights you've gained as you help to build a better world.

With appreciation,

Betsy Taylor
Executive Director
Center for a New American Dream



INTRODUCTION

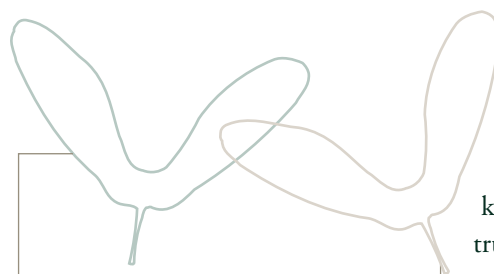
We believe that if enough of us band together and seek to act on our values and principles, we can and will affect the world for the better. Here at the Center for a New American Dream, we have an unwavering commitment to the premise that what each of us does matters. We trust that if congregations like yours embrace these actions, together we will help ensure a healthy planet for future generations.

Most faith traditions show us that an authentic spiritual journey involves treating our neighbors with respect, and living in right relationship with the Earth. Yet, putting these values into action can be challenging. How can we know which changes are truly worth the effort? How can we be sure that all that effort will make a difference?

The Responsible Purchasing for Faith Communities Program Guide is a tool to make it easier for congregations to live their faith and create change. Everywhere, faith communities are valuable role models for community service. We can all change our purchasing patterns to preserve the Earth's resources, and people of faith can take a strong lead in this essential transformation. By making different purchases—ones that are environmentally friendly and socially responsible—

faith communities can conserve resources and reduce human suffering.

The Center's Responsible Purchasing for Faith Communities Program Guide is a great way to get your congregation started. We hope you'll find that this guide takes the guesswork out of purchasing decisions and helps you document the positive impact of your faith community's actions. As we join together to take action to protect the Earth and the workers who produce consumer goods, we should be encouraged and inspired by knowing that every step we take truly makes a difference.



According to a survey conducted by the Biodiversity Project, 67 percent of Americans say that they care about the environment because nature is God's creation.

A MATTER OF FAITH

Most faith traditions call for a balance between the pursuit of individual needs and wants with a responsibility to fellow humans and other living creatures. Though not the norm in today's high-paced commercial culture, the notions of caring for the Earth and improving the quality of life for all people are hardly ground breaking—nearly all major religious and spiritual traditions have been teaching this for centuries.

Around the world, people of faith are asking deep questions about how to live in ways that reflect positive values, and about how to do their part to ensure a healthy future for our children. Leading this kind of life calls for us to remember our core values. Evaluating what we need and changing what we consume both at home and in our communities can be a profoundly spiritual activity.

PURCHASING PROBLEMS

While consuming resources, by definition, is a necessary part of surviving on the Earth, excessive use of natural resources by large numbers of people creates a strain on the planet. There is also a disparity in how these precious resources are distributed. A scant 20 percent of the world's people, most of whom are North Americans, earn 86 percent of the income, consume 80 percent of the world's resources, and create 83 percent of the world's waste. In addition, the consumerism that drives this quest for more and more stuff creates a culture that values marketing more than meaning. We are left with a world that is hurting—spiritually, socially and environmentally.

A growing number of religious leaders cite consumerism as the Earth's greatest problem and stress the need to reassess our consuming patterns for environmental reasons, as well as for personal, social and spiritual reasons. By consuming less, we are free to devote more time and energy to the true meaning in our lives.

CARING FOR THE EARTH

The world's largest faith traditions, including Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism, acknowledge the interconnectedness of religious and environmental concerns and call for individuals of faith to care for the environment. Many religious groups are now taking action to protect the Earth and its inhabitants through religious education, advocacy, worship and prayer. Purchasing responsibly is one very important way to care for the Earth and its inhabitants.

IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

Whether through organized religion or personal spirituality, more and more people are rediscovering the importance of achieving spiritual balance in their lives. It can be difficult when the dominant culture seems to scream "More is better!" But nonmaterial needs, such as meaningful relationships, love, beauty, a sense of purpose and a spiritual path can rarely be fulfilled by more purchases. Consuming responsibly can improve our own lives as well as the lives of our neighbors.

HELPING TO CREATE A JUST WORLD

Communities of faith teach the importance of caring for our neighbors out of compassion, love for others and a strong dedication to justice. By consuming resources and generating waste greatly out of proportion with the rest of the world, we are robbing ourselves and our neighbors of clean air, clean water and other precious natural resources. We show respect for our neighbors and our planet by changing the way we consume and purchasing differently in our homes and in our faith communities.

TAKING POSITIVE STEPS

The antidote to excess consumerism is community—the support of our friends, our family, our congregation our neighbors. We know that we can have a significant positive impact on the world if we all take small steps together. The Center for a New American Dream is encouraged that many faith groups share the vision for a healthy planet and just society. We are excited to help faith communities change how they consume to protect the environment and improve everyone's quality of life—both at home, at work and in their houses of worship.

We in the industrialized world have allowed our appetites to outrun both our resources and our humanity.

— Rabbi Daniel Swartz

Too much consumption or effort to make money is no good.

— Dalai Lama

Modern society will find no solution to the ecological problem unless it takes a serious look at its lifestyle. — Pope John Paul II



Organizing the Responsible Purchasing Program in your congregation

Do you want to make your house of worship a more environmentally friendly place, but don't know what to do? Do you want your sacred space to be more socially responsible, but don't know how to get started? The Responsible Purchasing Program Guide provides key steps your congregation can take, outlines ways to undertake each action, and suggests further actions and resources when your congregation is ready to do more. We selected the eight actions listed in this guide because they have a significant environmental impact, help promote social justice, and are fairly easy to implement. We hope that you commit to taking at least one of the actions, and report your progress to us. By taking steps together, we can make a difference.

THE IMPACT

Every small action can add up to an enormous difference. If only 1,000 congregations take these actions over the course of 1 year we will prevent the emission of more than 10 million pounds of climate-warming carbon dioxide; save more than \$200,000 on electric bills; eliminate the use of 76,440 pounds of fertilizer, 15,600 pounds of pesticides, and 1,000 pounds of toxins; and save 2,160 trees and 91,000

gallons of water. That's a significant step towards a healthier, more just world.

USING THE GUIDE

The guide is divided into eight sections and is provided in a convenient binder format so that you can easily add other materials and resources to the

appropriate sections. The

Center will also provide periodic updates and supplemental materials as needed. An appendix is

located in the back that gives

you a list of resources and organizations to contact.

HOW TO GET STARTED

FIND OUT WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE IN YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Find out from leaders and laity what initiatives have already been undertaken and what people are eager to do next. Remember to be flexible when considering what actions to take on first.

IDENTIFY THE DECISION MAKERS

Find out who makes the purchasing decisions in your congregation. Make sure you include them—whether



it is an office manager or committee head—in the process of making changes. Getting the decision makers involved early in the process will make tasks less challenging as you move forward.

RECRUIT INVOLVEMENT

If your congregation has an existing environmental or social action committee, start with those committee members. To find other interested people you may try making an announcement during worship service or an education hour. You can also solicit interest by putting an inquiry in the congregation's newsletter or bulletin. It is likely that there are people who are interested, but simply haven't gotten involved. If possible, include young people as they have an important part to play in making the world a better place.

Once you identify interested individuals, ask them to help lead this program and seek a broad base of support. Allow interested individuals to get involved and become full partners with you. Sharing the leadership will increase the chances of diverse involvement from your community, and, naturally, you can all share the burden of work.

GET LEADERS' SUPPORT

Getting the support of key leaders will be very important in order to involve the rest of the congregation. Have conversations with your faith leaders, lay leaders and the congregants who are most involved and influential, and explain to them why the Responsible Purchasing Program is important. Discuss with them the connections it has to your faith and your community. You can also let them know that several of these steps will result in financial savings. For more

information, refer to the Responsible Purchasing Speaking Points (see the appendix).

BUILD SUPPORT WITH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious educational programs such as adult study groups, youth groups and Sunday School can be great venues to learn about and develop an appreciation for environmental and social action initiatives in your congregation. Bring in speakers from local organizations to talk about such topics as energy and resource conservation. Several resources for use in adult education classes are listed on the Center's website (www.newdream.org/faith).

SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS THROUGH PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Whenever possible use prayer and worship to help support your efforts. Consider asking clergy in your congregation to conduct a worship service that focuses on the importance of caring for the Earth and promoting social justice through responsible purchasing. If your congregation has a prayer group, ask them to include your efforts with this program in the regular prayers of the congregation. If appropriate, begin and end your group sessions with prayer or with texts that address the religious importance of protecting the environment and promoting a better quality of life for all people. If you need help with liturgical resources, contact the Center's Faith-Based Outreach Program staff or visit the Center's website (www.newdream.org/faith).

THE ACTION STEPS

1. Replace standard light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs).
2. Use organic, shade grown, fair trade coffee during events and in the office.
3. Free your congregation from junk mail.
4. Buy post-consumer waste, recycled, process chlorine-free office paper.
5. Eliminate pesticide use on the grounds of your house of worship.
6. Use environmentally friendly cleaning products.
7. Use recycled content, process chlorine-free paper towels and toilet paper.
8. Inspire another faith community to participate in the Responsible Purchasing Program.

KEEPING IT GOING

COMMUNICATING WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

It is important to keep members of your congregation updated about the initiatives you're taking. Promote your group's efforts and accomplishments through newsletters, fliers, bulletin inserts and announcements during worship service. Not everything that you do in the Responsible Purchasing Program is visible to the congregation, so it is important to share news about your initiative's positive impacts. Success begets success.

PUBLICIZING THE WORK

You may want to get the work of your congregation featured in the media. Reporters often want positive stories, and many of them welcome information from community groups. To get started, contact local radio stations, television stations, newspapers and magazines. You can then either contact media representatives directly or send them a news release. A phone call directly to the reporter is often the best approach.

FITTING IN WITH EXISTING GREENING PROGRAMS

Many national faith-based groups have greening programs that you can join. They may have resources available to help you in your efforts. The Responsible Purchasing Program supports these programs by providing concrete ways that your congregation can take action to make your church, synagogue or mosque more environmentally friendly. For a list of some prominent greening programs, see the appendix section located at the end of this guide.

CELEBRATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SUCCESSES

Social events are great ways to celebrate accomplishments and honor people who have made contributions to the project. You may also want to create a display of the results for the lobby of your building so that members of the congregation can see how they are making a difference. Make sure that you continue to congratulate people both formally and informally for the work they are doing. These small but important steps are essential to sustain the changes you're asking the congregation to make.

To write a news release make sure that you answer these questions: who, what, when, where, how and why. Keep your statements brief and factual. Include a contact person and a telephone number on the release in case a reporter wants to speak with someone in your congregation. If you are holding an event, make sure that you provide plenty of advance notice to reporters.



ONE STEP AT A TIME

Change does not happen overnight. Each of the actions listed requires some time and effort. Take them on one at a time so that your group doesn't become overwhelmed. You may want to create an action plan with a timeline that outlines responsibilities. Remember to stay positive, have patience, and

pace the work. You may be asking your community to change long-term habits. Listen to concerns, take the easy steps first, and give credit for progress to the full congregation. Remember that you are a part of a nationwide network of people who are taking these same actions based on their deepest values and beliefs.

1 • Buildings/Energy

Replace standard light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent lights (CFLs).



WHY?

Electricity production is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, and lighting alone accounts for about 25 percent of American electricity consumption. Standard incandescent lights are notoriously inefficient, while easily available alternatives can save money, energy and pollution.

Based on analysis of Antarctic ice sheets, present-day atmospheric levels of heat-trapping carbon dioxide are higher than at any other time in the last 420,000 years. Energy wasted by standard light bulbs creates more greenhouse gas emissions by power plants, which adds to global warming and climate change. In addition, power plants, which are disproportionately located in low-income neighborhoods, release pollutants that increase the incidence of asthma and other health problems.

Although compact fluorescent light bulbs cost more to purchase, they last longer than standard light bulbs and save money on energy bills. You can save \$25 in electricity costs over the life of each bulb. Taking a few minutes to install a few energy-efficient bulbs in places of worship is a great way to start

making a difference. Compact fluorescents can reduce lighting energy use by 65 to 75 percent—that's good news for both the environment *and* your congregation's budget.

HOW DO WE TAKE ACTION?

Check your local home supply store for low-mercury compact fluorescent light bulbs that fit your various light fixtures (they now come in all shapes and sizes, including ones that look just like incandescents; today's CFLs also deliver constant, non-flickering, full-spectrum light). Low-mercury CFLs and other efficient lighting products can often be found at local retail outlets such as hardware stores, discount stores and lighting or electrical supplier stores.

WHERE TO FIND CFLS

If you can't obtain CFLs locally, there are several national companies that offer a good selection. Also look for dimmable CFLs for use in your worship space.

- Real Goods, 360 Interlocken Boulevard, Suite 300, Brownfield, CO 80021, (800) 762-7325, www.realgoods.com

Looking for an easy fund raiser for your youth group or congregation? Consider purchasing compact fluorescent bulbs in bulk and selling them to your community for a small profit. Check with your local power company to see if they offer CFLs at reduced rates. You can also check online suppliers such as www.lite-house.com or www.bulbs.com. The National Council of Churches has launched a Youth CFL Project, a youth fund-raising effort which is administered by the Church of the Brethren. For more information visit their website at www.brethren.org/genbd/BP/CFL/index.htm.

- ▶ Ecological Innovations, 2 Credit River Road, Erin, Ontario, NOB 1T0, Canada, (519) 980-9920, www3.sympatico.ca/ecological.innovations
- ▶ Seventh Generation, 212 Battery Street, Suite A, Burlington, VT 05401, (802) 658-3773, www.seventhgen.com

Information is available through the National Council of Churches website at www.webofcreation.org/energystewardship/guide.html.

- ◆ Provide better building sealing and ventilation to reduce energy use. For more information visit www.doi.gov/oepec/reports and click on the sealvent option.

WHAT WE DO MATTERS.

If only 500 churches, temples or mosques each replaced eight standard bulbs with CFLs, we could prevent the emission of *five million pounds* of carbon dioxide and reduce electricity bills by more than \$100,000 over the life of those bulbs.

- ❑ Our congregation is replacing _____ standard bulbs with CFLs. This will result in the following environmental savings:
 _____ CFLs x 262 = _____ pounds of carbon dioxide saved each year.
 _____ CFLs x \$25 = _____ saved in electricity bills over the life of the bulbs.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- ▶ Install programmable thermostats in your building to help reduce energy usage by allowing you to determine what parts of your building to heat or cool and when to do so. You can find programmable thermostats with the "Energy Star" label at most hardware or home improvement stores.
- ◆ Perform an energy survey or audit of your building. For more information on how to conduct an audit of your building, consult the Energy Stewardship Guide for Congregations.

RESOURCES

For more information on how to make your building more energy efficient contact:

- ▶ Energy Star for Congregations, (888) STAR-YES, www.epa.gov/congregations
- ▶ Interfaith Power and Light (a program of The Regeneration Project): Rev. Sally Bingham, (415) 561-4891, ecosal@aol.com, or Steve MacAusland, (781) 329-7335, commed@world.std.com, www.theregenerationproject.org
- ▶ Interfaith Coalition on Energy, 7217 Oak Avenue, Melrose Park, PA 19027, (215) 635-1122

SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS

In almost all religious traditions, light is used as a powerful spiritual symbol, often serving as a metaphor for divinity and goodness. Let the light used by your congregation symbolize the values of environmental and social responsibility your faith community holds.

2 • Events

Use organic, shade grown, fair trade coffee during events and in the office.



WHY?

Coffee is big business—it's one of the most heavily traded commodities on the planet. But for the majority of small coffee farmers, who live in rural communities in some of the poorest countries in the world, the benefits are minimal. Isolated from markets, they struggle to make a simple living. Fairly traded, shade grown, organic coffee helps support small-scale farmers, enabling them to farm sustainably, preserve wildlife habitats, and protect the environment.

Shade grown, organic coffee farming recognizes the critical role of the farmer in managing soil, plants, animals and other elements in a sustainable agricultural system that avoids the use of synthetic pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. Farms that grow shade varieties provide vital wildlife habitat. Each year, billions of migratory birds make the journey from the temperate climates of North America where they breed to the tropical climates of Central and South America where they winter.

HOW DO WE TAKE ACTION?

Serve organic, shade grown, fair trade coffee at congregational events such as fellowship hours and in

the office. You can also make it available for sale to individuals for home use. To order contact:

- ▶ *Equal Exchange Coffee*, an employee-owned fair trade organization, works directly with farmer-owned cooperatives, paying growers a fair price for their products and supporting sustainable agriculture. Organic, fairly traded coffee, teas and cocoa are available at wholesale prices along with educational materials. Thousands of congregations have become involved in fair trade through Equal Exchange's Interfaith Coffee Program and faith-based partnerships (see appendix). For more information call (781) 830-0303 x228, e-mail interfaith@equalexchange.com, or visit their website at www.equalexchange.com/interfaith.
- ▶ *Peace Coffee* sells coffee based on the belief that it should reward taste buds while respecting coffee farmers and the environment. Contact them toll free at (888) 324-7874, e-mail at peacecoffee@iatp.org, or visit their website at www.peacecoffee.com.
- ▶ *Thanksgiving Coffee Company* provides shade grown, organic coffee. Contact them at P.O. 1918, Fort Bragg, CA 95437, (800) 462-1999, www.thanksgivingcoffee.com.

In recent years the populations of many migratory birds familiar to Americans such as hummingbirds, warblers and vireos have declined drastically. Scientists attribute their decline partly to the destruction of forests throughout the hemisphere.

Naturalists have long viewed shade coffee plantations as an important habitat for wildlife. Sun plantations, in comparison, hold little appeal for wildlife. Research in Colombia and Mexico has found that farms growing full sun coffee varieties have one-tenth as many bird species as do shade-variety farms.



WHAT WE DO MATTERS

For every 3,000 cups of organic, shade grown, fair trade coffee you serve (that's about 72 pounds of coffee or a six-month supply of coffee for an average congregation), you will be supporting one small coffee farmer, prevent approximately 44 pounds of fertilizer and 8 ounces of pesticides from being used. This amount of pesticide might not sound like much, but even small amounts of toxic pesticides can contaminate water and harm aquatic wildlife as well as other species. According to the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, shade grown coffee plantations can support more than 150 species of birds, a number that is exceeded only by the number of species found in undisturbed tropical forests. By drinking shade grown coffee, your congregation will be supporting a habitat that is home to 20 times the number of bird species than can exist in full sun plantations.

- ☐ Our congregation is replacing _____ cups of coffee served each week with organic, shade grown, fair trade coffee. This will result in the following environmental savings:

_____ cups per week x 52 =
 _____ cups per year

_____ cups per year x 0.0147 =
 _____ pounds of fertilizer not used

_____ cups per year x 0.003 =
 _____ ounces of pesticides not used

* One pound of coffee yields about 41 cups.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Conduct fund raisers for your youth group or other church program using organic, shade

grown, fair trade coffee. For more information on this contact Grounds for Sharing at info@GroundsForSharing.org, (970) 484-9221, or toll free (866) 766-6328.

- Use reusable coffee mugs, plates, bowls and silverware for fellowship events. This provides a symbol of your congregation's commitment to Earth stewardship and reduces plastic and paper waste destined for landfills. If you must use throw away cups and plates, use products made from recycled and recyclable materials.

RESOURCES

- Several denominations have coffee programs that help congregations buy fair trade coffee and offer educational and promotional resources (see the appendix). Contact the appropriate denomination or the Center's Faith-Based Outreach staff for more information.
- *The Coffee Book: Anatomy of an Industry from Crop to the Last Drop* by Nina Luttinger and Gregory Dicum.
- Information on shade grown coffee can also be found on the Center's website:
www.newdream.org/business/coffee.html

SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS

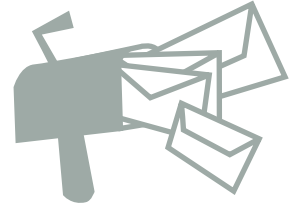
Our faith traditions teach us to show compassion for both farmers that care for the land and for the plants and animals that live on that land. Purchasing coffee responsibly helps us provide for our brothers and sisters and fellow creatures around the world.

An average congregation drinks an estimated 5,200 cups of coffee per year, which requires 7,300 square feet of land for the coffee trees. Coffee grown on sun plantations requires more agrochemicals than its shaded counterpart, and growers sometimes use chemicals that are banned in the United States, which contaminate local water supplies and sicken workers. The coffee produced in this manner is considered safe for consumption because the roasting process breaks down any chemical residues left on the coffee.



3 • Office/Mail

Free your congregation from junk mail.



WHY?

The world's forests are feeling the strain as global paper consumption has increased 74 percent since 1980. The United States, with five percent of the world's population, consumes 30 percent of the world's paper. Bulk mail, which is sent to our places of worship as well as our homes, accounts for 5.2 million tons of waste each year. This waste ends up in landfills, which are typically located near low-income and minority neighborhoods.

The vast majority of this mail is thrown out unread. Why waste precious resources? Eliminating junk mail preserves trees, reduces waste in landfills, and frees administrative staff from unnecessary hassles.

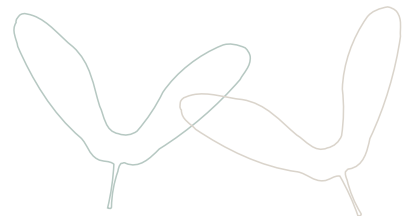
HOW DO WE TAKE ACTION?

The Center's website features a form that will generate letters for you to print out, sign, and mail to marketing preference organizations. You can find this form at www.newdream.org/junkmail/.

If you don't have easy access to the web, you can just write a short note to the following organizations:

- ▶ Mail Preference Service
Direct Marketing Association
P.O. Box 9008
Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008
- ▶ Polk "Opt-Out Program"
List Order Services
1621 Eighteenth Street
Denver, CO 80202

For each person in your congregation's office that is receiving junk mail, you will need to write out a postcard that asks to have your name taken off all mailing lists and contains your first, middle and last name, current mailing address at the congregation, and the congregation's phone number. Make sure that your request contains your signature.



WHAT WE DO MATTERS

If only 100 congregations take steps to decrease their junk mail we will save 30 trees, 9,200 pounds of carbon dioxide and 14,000 gallons of water each year. And, if only 50 individuals in each of those congregations take steps to decrease their junk mail in their own homes, we will save 865 trees, nearly 239,200 pounds of carbon dioxide and 364,000 gallons of water each year.

- ❑ Our congregation is taking steps to reduce its receipt of junk mail. We will be saving an average of 1/3 of a tree, 92 pounds of carbon and 140 gallons of water each year by taking this action.
- ❑ Members of our congregation are taking steps to reduce the receipt of junk mail in their own homes. This will result in the following environmental savings:
 - _____ participants x .167 =
_____ trees saved per year
 - _____ participants x 46 =
_____ pounds of carbon dioxide not released into the atmosphere each year
 - _____ participants x 70 =
_____ gallons of water saved per year

WHAT'S NEXT?

- ▶ Whenever you order a product or otherwise share your address, always remember to say, *'Please do not sell, rent, or trade my name!'*
- ▶ Call senders of unwanted catalogues and ask to be taken off their mailing lists.
- ▶ Make information available to the congregation to allow individuals to remove junk mail from their homes.

RESOURCES

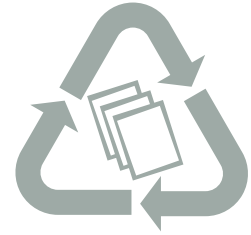
More junk mail tips, success stories and facts can be found on the web at www.newdream.org/junkmail/step1.html.

SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS

Faith traditions teach the importance of clearing out unwanted distractions that separate us from our spiritual path. Our culture is full of marketing and advertising clutter that enters our lives unwittingly through our mailboxes. Eliminating junk mail is just one way to unclutter our lives so that we can focus on what we value most. Americans spend eight months of their lives opening junk mail. Imagine what a difference we'd make if we devoted that time to what truly matters.

4• Office/Paper

Buy recycled content office paper.



WHY?

The computer age was supposed to usher in a paper-free society. To the contrary, it seems to have ushered in an era of unprecedented paper consumption. Globally, paper consumption has increased 74 percent since 1980. The United States consumed 107 million tons of paper in 1999, or about 784 pounds per American. As you might imagine, much of that rise was driven by increases in printer and copier paper consumption. Americans now consume and dispose of more than 7 million tons of office paper every year (about 1.4 trillion sheets or 168 million trees). Recycling used office paper is an important first step, but we must also buy recycled paper. Recycling doesn't work unless we, as consumers, create a demand for recycled and recyclable products.

HOW DO WE TAKE ACTION?

Purchase 60 percent post-consumer waste, process chlorine-free copy paper for your congregation's office. Many recycled content papers available today are high-quality products that will work in copiers, printers and fax machines. If your locally owned stores don't carry this type of paper, consult Co-op

America's excellent Woodwise directory of suppliers at www.coopamerica.org/woodwise or check out the Natural Resources Council of Maine's list at www.maineenvironment.org/cfree/cfreemain.htm.

Don't forget to let people know that your congregation is taking action. When printing newsletters or letters using recycled content paper use the tagline: "This community strongly believes in environmental protection and social responsibility and prints on post-consumer waste paper."

WHAT WE DO MATTERS

Every 1,000 reams of recycled copy paper you use will save 40 trees, 16,630 gallons of water, and prevent 1,046 cubic feet of paper from entering the landfill.

- ☐ Our congregation is switching to 60 percent recycled, post-consumer waste copy paper, which will result in the following savings:

_____ reams of paper purchased each year
x .04 = _____ trees saved

_____ reams of paper purchased each year x
16.63 = _____ gallons of water saved

_____ reams of paper purchased each year x
1.046 = _____ cubic feet in landfill
saved

American use approximately 7 million tons of office paper or 1.4 trillion sheets of paper each year. Producing a ton of virgin paper requires 24 trees, 7,000 more gallons of water, 4,100 more kilowatts of energy and releases 60 more pounds of pollutants into the atmosphere than producing a ton of 100 percent recycled paper. Chlorine is often used in the bleaching process, releasing the carcinogenic chemical dioxin and other toxics. Using non-chlorine treated paper reduces the amount of toxics released into the environment.



WHAT'S NEXT?

- ▶ Reduce paper use in the office by eliminating unnecessary print jobs, reusing paper that is blank on one side, and setting the copier default to 'duplex' mode if your congregation has a duplexing printer. According to World Watch Institute these measures could cut paper consumption by 20 percent.
- ▶ Start a paper recycling program in the office.
- ▶ Send your newsletter or other publications to the congregation electronically.
- ▶ Ask Staples (the country's largest retail supplier of paper) or your own paper store to supply recycled content paper.

RESOURCES

- ▶ Conservatree offers practical and expert information on environmentally sound papers. For more information write 100 Second Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94118, or call (415) 721-4230. You may also visit their website at www.conservatree.com or e-mail them at paper@conservatree.com.
- ▶ Co-op America's *Woodwise Consumer Guide* provides practical tips and resources you can use every day to be forest friendly. For more information contact Co-op America (publisher of *National Green Pages*), 1612 K Street, NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006, (800) 58-GREEN, (202) 872-5307. You can also visit their website at www.coopamerica.org.

- ▶ Cutting Paper provides practical information about how to reduce the amount of office paper you use. For more information contact Bruce Nordman at BNordman@LBL.gov or (510) 486-7089. You may also write to Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 1 Cyclotron Road, 90-4000, Berkeley, CA 94720, or visit their website at <http://eetd.lbl.gov/Paper>.
- ▶ *Paper Cuts: Recovering the Paper Landscape* by the World Watch Institute is a thorough investigation of the paper issue. For more information visit the website at www.worldwatch.org/pubs/paper/149.html or contact World Watch Institute, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036-1904. You can also call them at (202) 452-1999.

SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS

For many religions, trees are viewed as sacred or as powerful spiritual metaphors. For example, in the Judeo-Christian tradition trees are described as a symbol of life and represent the righteousness and grandeur of creation. In Buddhism, the Buddha found enlightenment under the Bodhi tree. How we use paper reflects our reverence and respect for trees and the forest ecosystem that supports them.

5• Grounds

Eliminate pesticide use on the grounds of your place of worship.



WHY?

Five billion pounds of pesticides are applied each year worldwide—20 percent of them in the United States alone. Cancer rates are rising as pesticides and other toxics pervade our food, water and bodies. The *Journal of Pesticide Reform* reports that 40 percent of all pesticides used in the United States mimic hormones in our bodies, causing reproductive disorders and potentially interfering with fetal development. Workers at pesticide plants also have a significant increase in some forms of cancer. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, by their very nature, most pesticides create some risk to humans and animals, or harm the environment because they are designed to kill or otherwise adversely affect living organisms. When we directly apply pesticides, which includes herbicides and fungicides, to church, mosque and temple lawns and gardens, we unintentionally harm our precious water resources when some of the chemicals are washed off into streets and local watersheds.

HOW DO WE TAKE ACTION?

So, you're ready to give up pesticides. But now what?

- ▶ *Plant native or disease-resistant plants.* By planting native species that are suited for the environment and naturally resistant to local diseases and pests, you'll reduce your need for pesticides.
- ▶ *Use volunteers.* To help control weeds, have volunteers hand pull the unwanted plants. This is also a great way to get members of the congregation involved.
- ▶ *Use alternative methods for pest control.* The Pesticide Action Network of North America's Pesticide Advisor offers useful information on dealing with specific pest and pesticide problems. Visit their website at www.panna.org/resources/advisor.html, or check your library or local bookstore for *The Chemical-Free Lawn* by Warren Schultz (Rodale Press, 1989).

What IS a Pesticide?

A pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest. Pests can be insects, mice and other mammals, unwanted plants or weeds, fungi or microorganisms like bacteria and viruses. Though often misunderstood to refer only to *insecticides*, the term pesticide also applies to herbicides, fungicides and various other substances used to control pests and weeds.



WHAT WE DO MATTERS

- ❑ Our congregation will eliminate pesticides from our grounds. This will result in the following environmental savings:

_____ number of acres x 2.7 lbs. =
 _____ lbs. of toxics removed per year.

This may not sound like much, but even a few ounces of pesticides can pollute billions of gallons of water.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- ▶ Serve organic food, which is free of pesticides, at events hosted by your congregation.
- ▶ Have your congregation participate in a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program that provides organic, local produce and supports local farmers. For more information contact the Alternate Farming Systems Information Center, 10301 Baltimore Avenue, Room 132, Beltsville, MD 20705, (301) 504-6559. For a state-by-state listing of CSAs, visit www.nal.usda.gov/afsic.
- ▶ Replace lawns with native vegetation. Native plants are typically low-maintenance and reduce the need for pesticides, fertilizers and water. For more information about turning your congregation's lawn into a low-maintenance, backyard habitat, see National Wildlife Federation's comprehensive web page at www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat.

RESOURCES:

- ▶ For more information on pesticides, contact National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides, 701 E Street, SE, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20003, visit their website at www.beyondpesticides.org, or call (202) 543-5450. They also sell the book *Safety at Home: A Guide to the Hazards of Lawn and Garden Pesticides and Safer Ways to Manage Pests* (\$11) and numerous brochures (\$2 each) with tips for reducing pesticide use.
- ▶ Visit the Pesticide Action Network North America website at www.panna.org/resources/advisor.html, contact them at 49 Powell Street, Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94102, or call (415) 981-1771.
- ▶ Check out *The Chemical Free Lawn* by Warren Schultz (Rodale Press, 1989)

SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS

Your house of worship and the land that surrounds it is a special, sacred place. The relationship to this land is important and should be cared for in a way that shows compassion for the land and its creatures. Refraining from using pesticides protects the waterways that surround our sacred places and also protects the plants and animals that call your place of worship home.

6 • Buildings/Toxics

Use environmentally friendly cleaning products.



WHY?

Chemicals used in traditional cleaning products raise staggering health and environmental concerns. Many of these products contain ozone-depleting substances and toxic materials that harm plant and animal life and contribute to nonvehicular volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions that form smog, create respiratory distress in some people, and limit plant growth. The health costs of using traditional cleaning products are also high. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, 6 out of every 100 janitors have work-related injuries attributed to cleaning products. Traditional cleaning products can contain chemicals associated with reproductive disorders, cancers, respiratory ailments, eye or skin irritation and other human health issues.

Yet, keeping things clean doesn't have to have a negative impact on the environment or human health. Switching to biodegradable, low-toxic cleaning products can improve the environment and indoor air quality without sacrificing cleaning effectiveness. You can also save money since environmentally friendly cleaning products are frequently less expensive.

HOW DO WE TAKE ACTION?

Choose products that are environmentally friendly. Groups such as Green Seal provide information on making responsible choices about cleaning products. When choosing a cleaning product look for products that are non-toxic to both humans and aquatic life, are biodegradable, have a low corrosive factor, have acceptable volatile organic compound (VOC) levels, and are packaged using recyclable materials.

The following organizations can help you select appropriate cleaning products:

- ▶ The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has an environmental matrix that can be used to determine what cleaning product is best for your congregation. www.epa.gov/opptintr/epp/cleaners/select/
- ▶ Real Goods, 360 Interlocken Boulevard, Suite 300, Brownfield, CO 80021, (800) 762-7325, www.realgoods.com
- ▶ Seventh Generation, 212 Battery Street, Suite A, Burlington, VT 05401, (800) 456-1177, www.seventhgen.com/html/tips.html

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs), many which are found in cleaning products, are considered an indoor air contaminant and can cause eye, nose and throat irritation; headaches; allergies; neuro-behavioral problems; damage to kidneys; and other health problems.



- Green Seal, 1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 827, Washington, DC 20036-5525. (202) 872-6400, www.greenseal.org

WHAT WE DO MATTERS

- Our congregation is switching to environmentally friendly cleaners. This will not only protect human health, but will result in the following environmental savings:

\$_____ spent on cleaning products each year
 x .04 = _____ pounds of hazardous
 materials eliminated each year

WHAT'S NEXT?

Are you looking for other ways to eliminate toxics from your building? Reduce the use of pesticides by using alternative methods or Integrated Pest Management (IPM). For more information, contact the National Integrated Pest Management Network by e-mailing cipm@ncsu.edu, calling (919) 515-1648, or

visiting their website at www.reeusda.gov/nipmn. You can also contact Beyond Pesticides at 701 E Street, SE, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20003, (202) 543-5450, or visit their website at www.beyondpesticides.org.

RESOURCES

- Environmental Protection Agency's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program. Visit their website at www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/.
- Co-op America. Visit their website at www.greenpages.org/greenclean.cfm.

SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS

Cleanliness may be next to Godliness but there is nothing sacred about using toxic chemicals to clean our places of worship. We have a duty to provide a safe work environment for the individuals who clean our buildings. We also need to care for our children, who are particularly vulnerable to chemical residues. They put their faith in us to not only provide a safe place to grow and learn but also to ensure a healthy planet for tomorrow.

7 • Buildings

Use recycled content, process chlorine-free paper towels and toilet paper.



WHY?

Consumers use 3,000 tons of paper towels every day. Manufacturing paper products from virgin fiber versus recycled materials consumes twice as much energy as well as more water, wood and other natural resources. Every ton of 100 percent recycled paper purchased (rather than virgin-pulp paper) saves approximately 4,100 kilowatts of energy, 7,000 gallons of water, 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space and 60 pounds of air pollutants from entering the atmosphere.

HOW DO WE TAKE ACTION?

Purchase non-chlorine bleached, 100 percent recycled paper towels, toilet paper and facial tissues. Today, you can find high-quality products from variety of suppliers. If you can't purchase recycled content paper towels and toilet paper locally try contacting the following national retailers:

- ▶ Seventh Generation, 49 Hercules Drive, Colchester, VT 05446, (800) 456-1177, www.seventhgen.com
- ▶ Real Goods, 966 Mazzoni Street, Ukiah, CA 95482, (800) 762-7325, www.realgoods.com

WHAT WE DO MATTERS

For every 100 rolls of paper towels we replace with recycled-content paper towels we save 125 kilowatts of energy, 212 gallons of water and nearly 2 pounds of air pollutants from entering the atmosphere.

For every 100 rolls of toilet paper that we replace with recycled content paper we save 48 kilowatts of energy, 81 gallons of water and 11 ounces of air pollutants from entering the atmosphere.

- Our congregation is replacing its paper products with recycled content paper. This will result in an environmental savings of:

_____ rolls of paper towels used each year x
1.25 = _____ kilowatts of energy saved

_____ rolls of paper towels used each year x
2.12 = _____ gallons of water saved

_____ rolls of paper towels used each year x .02
= _____ pounds of air pollutants not
released into the atmosphere

_____ rolls of toilet paper used each year x 0.48
= _____ kilowatts of energy saved

_____ rolls of toilet paper used each year x 0.81
= _____ gallons of water saved

_____ rolls of toilet paper used each year x 0.11
= _____ ounces of air pollutants not
released into the atmosphere

WHAT'S NEXT?

- ▶ Use cloth towels in the kitchen of your building to cut down on the use of disposable items.
- ▶ Have cloth rags handy in classrooms and kitchen facilities to clean up spills. This will reduce the need for paper towels.
- ▶ If your house of worship is located in an area that doesn't have a supplier of recycled paper towels and paper towels nearby, consider buying these items in bulk and reselling them to the congregation for their use at home.

RESOURCES

- ▶ *Co-op America's Woodwise Consumer Guide* provides practical tips and resources you can use every day to be forest friendly. For more information contact: Co-op America (Publisher

of *National Green Pages*), 1612 K Street, NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006, (800) 58-GREEN or (202) 872-5307. You can also visit their website at www.coopamerica.org or www.greenpages.org.

SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS

Recycling is not a new idea for religious communities. The concept of renewal and rebirth can be found in all religious traditions. In indigenous traditions, which often use nature as an integral focus, the cycle of the seasons is an important spiritual metaphor. In the Christian tradition, the theme of rebirth and renewal is evident in the celebration of Easter. Completing the loop by using recycled goods helps the Earth and its inhabitants, and reminds us of the importance of renewal and rebirth.

8• Reaching Out

Inspire another faith community to participate in the program.



WHY?

There's an easy way for you to increase the positive impact that your congregation is making. Convince another congregation to take the actions outlined in the Responsible Purchasing Program. Just pass along a copy of the eight actions or have them contact the Center for a copy of this guide by calling (877) 68-DREAM and asking to speak to our Faith-Based Outreach Program staff.

HOW DO WE TAKE THIS ACTION?

The easiest way to get other congregations interested in participating with you is to publicize your own congregation's actions and results through regional newsletters and local media. Talk about your successes at clergy round tables and other interfaith gatherings or denominational meetings.

Ask congregations interested in the Responsible Purchasing for Faith Communities Program to contact you or the Center for more information on how to take action. You can also approach another congregation directly to talk to them about the Responsible Purchasing Program. You may want to use the Responsible Purchasing Speaking Points located in the appendix of this guide for ideas. By joining forces with other congregations in the area, you can also start buying items such as paper towels

and cleaning products in bulk. This will not only contribute to a healthy environment and reduce expenses in your congregation, but will also create lasting ties with other people of faith.

WHAT WE DO MATTERS

Your congregation serves as a role model not only to its own members, but to the larger community as well. Every action you take has the potential to spark action in others. If we, as communities, choose to live differently and encourage others to follow our lead, these changes will create ripple effects that will be felt around the planet.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Ask your judiciary, regional or national organization to adopt the practices in this guide.
- Encourage your local or state government to purchase environmentally friendly goods. The Center's Procurement Strategies Program can offer you guidance. Contact the Procurement Strategies Program staff at (877) 68-DREAM.

- Suggest that congregants seek to bring about similar changes in their workplaces, schools and homes.

RESOURCES

There are several “greening” programs offered by faith-based organizations. A list of programs can be found in the appendix section of this guide.

SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS

Faith communities provide hope to the rest of the world and serve as models for stewardship and responsible living. People of faith can fulfill this role by sharing with others the work that they believe is important. People of faith know how to act on their convictions and know how to support each other. Faith communities can unite to work together to make this world a better place.

About the Center for a New American Dream

The Center for a New American Dream helps Americans consume responsibly to protect the environment, enhance quality of life and promote social justice. We work with individuals, institutions, communities and businesses to conserve natural resources, counter the commercialization of our culture, and promote positive changes in the way goods are produced and consumed. We're building a network of individuals and institutions to implement and promote sustainable policies and commercial practices, and to ensure a safe, healthy planet for all people today and for future generations.

We hope that this guide helps you and your congregation make more responsible, Earth-friendly purchasing decisions. As you continue to take action as a congregation, there are several additional resources that are available from the Center for a New American Dream.

- ▶ **"Simplify the Holidays"** brochure \$3. A great resource full of practical tips for having a more joyful and less consumer-based holiday season.

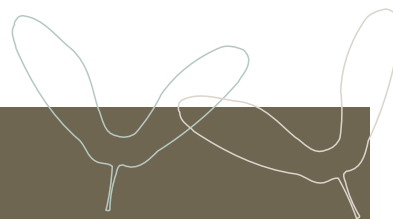
- ▶ **"Tips for Parenting in a Commercial Culture"** brochure. \$3. Packed with tips and resources to help parents deal with the effects of advertising and marketing on children.
- ▶ **"More Fun, Less Stuff" Starter Kit.** \$12. Includes tips and resources to help individuals rethink their purchases and consumer lifestyles. A great resource for use in adult study forums.
- ▶ **"More Fun, Less Stuff" Video.** \$12. Filled with information about how our consumer culture has hidden costs we often fail to notice—more work, more stress and many more environmental problems. This video, which highlights inspirational stories of individuals, businesses and faith communities taking action, is ideal for use in educational classes.

These and other publications can be purchased on our website at www.newdream.org, by calling us toll free at (877) 68-DREAM, or by mailing in the form at the bottom of this page.

☐ YES! I want to help build the new American dream!

\$_____	Simplify the Holidays brochure. \$3
\$_____	Tips for Parenting in a Commercial Culture brochure. \$3
\$_____	More Fun, Less Stuff Starter Kit. \$12
\$_____	More Fun, Less Stuff Video. \$12
\$_____	Responsible Purchasing for Faith Communities guide. \$5
\$_____	Membership. \$30
\$_____	Donation to help support Faith-Based Programs such as this guide.
\$_____	TOTAL

Form on reverse side



We also have additional programs that might interest your congregation:

- ▶ **Turn the Tide** is a program of nine actions that individuals can take in their daily lives that have a measurable, positive impact on the environment—and our interactive website shows that impact right away. For more information on resources available to congregations or to sign up for Turn the Tide as a congregation, contact our Faith-Based Outreach Director at cassandra@newdream.org.
- ▶ **Step by Step** is a brief, monthly e-mail service designed for busy individuals to take action. We provide you with practical tips and ideas for living in ways that enrich your life and make it easy to take action. You can sign up for this free service by e-mailing cassandra@newdream.org.

For more information on Turn the Tide or Step by Step, contact our Faith-Based Outreach Director toll free at (877) 68-DREAM, or visit the Center's website at www.newdream.org/faith.

HELP US BUILD THE DREAM

The Center has quadrupled in size in two years. Tens of thousands of people contact us each month. Ten thousand people agreed to join our action network in its first nine months of existence. Our success comes from the efforts of individuals and groups such as yours.

We ask you to help us work for a safe and healthy future. Our aim is to galvanize and support individuals while also working with faith-based organizations, government agencies, companies and other groups in the quest for a more sustainable and just culture and economy.

Our members can attest to the fact that the choices they have made to consume differently have directly impacted the quality of their lives and the lives of those around them. They have seen a difference, and so will your congregation. We have resources to connect you with others who share your concerns and to offer study materials and access to companies that provide sustainable products and services.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP US?

We're moving American culture away from today's emphasis on consumerism toward a more sustainable, fulfilling and just way of life. We will succeed—but only with the personal commitment and financial support of thousands of individuals and institutions. Please consider becoming a member, either individually or as an institution, and joining as we encourage Americans to live more in tune with their values and beliefs.

CENTER FOR A NEW AMERICAN DREAM

6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 900

Takoma Park, MD 20912

Phone (toll free): (877) 68-DREAM

E-mail: cassandra@newdream.org

Web: www.newdream.org/faith

Method of Payment: ☐ Check ☐ Credit card
 Card number _____ Exp date _____
 Name (as it appears on credit card if applicable) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Please make checks payable to the Center for a New American Dream and mail to: 6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 900, Takoma Park, MD 20912. (877) 68-DREAM.

• Appendix

Greening Initiatives

Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life

WWW.COEJL.ORG

Provides pragmatic and practical resources for Jewish congregations across the country. Local affiliates in numerous metropolitan areas also provide detailed support.

Covenant Congregation Program

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, #812
NEW YORK, NY 10115
(212) 870-2385
ECOJUSTICE@NCCCUSA.ORG

Participating churches sign covenants and are given action ideas divided by subject: worship, learning and teaching, lifestyle (congregational and personal) and community involvement.

Environmental Justice Program

US CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
3211 4TH STREET, NE, WASHINGTON, DC 20017
WWW.NCCBUSCC.ORG/SDWP/EJP/INDEX.HTM

Seeks to educate and motivate Catholics to a deeper reflection for God's creation, and to engage parishes in activities aimed at dealing with environmental problems.

Greening Congregations Program

EARTH MINISTRY
1305 NE 47TH STREET, SEATTLE, WA 98105
(206) 632-2426
WWW.EARTHMINISTRY.ORG
EMOFFICE@EARTHMINISTRY.ORG

Congregations are provided with a handbook and participate by signing a covenant. Congre-

gations are encouraged to implement initiatives in the areas of worship, education, institutional life, community outreach and outreach to other congregations. Staff support is available for churches in the Puget Sound area.

Green Sanctuary Program

CONTACT: KATHERINE JESCH AT KATHERINE.JESCH@UUASPP.ORG

Participating Unitarian Universalist congregations are asked to engage in 17 actions organized into 6 areas of church life including energy conservation and environmental practice, recycling, communication, religious education and environmental justice.

Web of Creation

WWW.WEBOFCREATION.ORG

Provides information for starting a "green" church and divides action ideas into various categories including transformation through worship and education, buildings, personal lifestyle and political advocacy.

Whole Earth Churches

WWW.WPUCC.ORG/ECO-JUSTICE/WE-LIST.HTM

This program is for United Church of Christ congregations who are committed to study and act on environmental concerns. Congregations engage in social, political, economic and cultural issues relevant to the environment.

Institutional Coffee Programs

Several denominations, in partnership with Equal Exchange, have already formed coffee programs that support low-income farmers overseas and protect the environment. For more information on Equal Exchange's Interfaith Coffee Program contact 251 Revere Street, Canton, MA 02021, (781) 830-0303 x231, e-mail at interfaith@equalexchange.com, or visit their website at www.equalexchange.com/interfaith.

- ▶ American Friends Service Committee Coffee Project, 2161 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02140, www.afsc.org/nehp
- ▶ Church of the Brethren, Brethren Witness Office, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120, (800) 323-8039, e-mail: witness_gb@brethren.org
- ▶ Lutheran World Relief, 700 Light Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21230, (800) LWR-LWR2, www.lwr.org/coffee
- ▶ Presbyterian Church (USA) Coffee Project, 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202, (888) 728-7228 x5626, www.pcusa.org/coffee
- ▶ United Methodist Committee on Relief Coffee Project, Room 330, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115, (212) 870-3816, <http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor>
- ▶ Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Coffee Project, Programs Department at UUSC, 130 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA 02139-1845. (617) 868-6600, e-mail: postmaster@uusc.org, www.uusc.org

Speaking Points

Here are some speaking points that you may want to use when sharing the Responsible Purchasing Program with others. For more information or to answer any questions not addressed here, please feel free to contact the Faith-Based Outreach staff at (877) 68-DREAM.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Responsible Purchasing for Faith Communities Program was developed by the Center for a New American Dream, which helps Americans consume responsibly to protect the environment, enhance quality of life and promote social justice. Responsible Purchasing for Faith Communities is a program of eight simple actions that almost every congregation can take in their church, temple or mosque to help promote social justice and to have a measurable, positive impact on the environment—and it lets participants see that impact immediately through easy calculators.

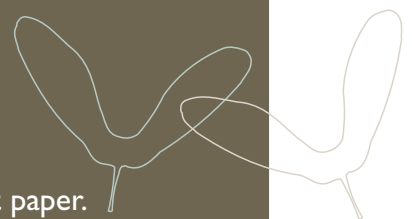
WHY FAITH COMMUNITIES?

Many faith traditions value giving to our neighbors and protecting the earth. Many religions also reflect on the relationship between materialism and spiritual well being. These faith traditions call for balance between the pursuit of individual needs and one's responsibility toward fellow humans and other living creatures. The world's largest faith traditions, including Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism, acknowledge the interconnectedness of religious and environmental and justice concerns. They call for individuals of faith to care not only for their neighbors but also for the environment. A growing number of religious leaders cite consumerism as one of the Earth's greatest problems and stress the need to reassess our consumption patterns for their environmental impact, as well as for justice, personal and spiritual reasons.

Our actions impact the quality of life of our neighbors and future generations. Americans consume resources and generate waste vastly out of proportion with the rest of the world. This has the effect of “stealing” clean air, clean water and other precious

The Action Steps

1. Replace standard light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs).
2. Use organic, shade grown, fair trade coffee during events and in the office.
3. Free your congregation from junk mail.
4. Buy recycled content office paper.
5. Eliminate pesticide use on the grounds of your house of worship.
6. Use environmentally friendly cleaning products.
7. Use recycled content, process chlorine-free paper towels and toilet paper.
8. Inspire another faith community to participate in the Responsible Purchasing Program.



natural resources from our neighbors and from the children of tomorrow. As people of faith, we are called to treat others justly and to live gently on the Earth. By changing a few of our own daily activities, we show compassion not only for the Earth, but also for its inhabitants and future generations.

THE PURPOSE

- ▶ Taking these eight actions is a way for congregations to make a difference just by maintaining their buildings and grounds a bit differently. Together, we will make a difference in the environment, make a difference for more marginalized communities, and provide a positive role model in our communities.
- ▶ Responsible Purchasing for Faith Communities is a short list of very powerful actions that almost everyone can take. These eight simple actions will not have a negative impact on the participants' quality of life, but they will have a significantly positive impact on the environment and help promote social justice.
- ▶ This program will also prompt members of the congregation to adopt a more environmental and socially just worldview as well as help them to think of how their other daily actions are impacting the environment and the Earth's human inhabitants.
- ▶ The program is a terrific way to invite the members of your congregation to work together toward a common goal. When done thoughtfully, the very process of involvement and of communal change can draw members of the congregation together.

- ▶ Perhaps most importantly, through this program congregations can begin to live more in tune with their values.
- ▶ Although Responsible Purchasing for Faith Communities will not single-handedly solve all of our environmental or social justice problems, it is a wonderful tool for engaging congregations to do their part. Governments, businesses and individuals also have an important role to play in addressing environmental and social justice problems and may take their lead from the example that congregations set.
- ▶ This short list of eight actions is not an exhaustive list. There are other actions that congregations or congregants can take, but these eight actions are important first steps that have measurable, positive benefits.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

1. Follow the instructions in the Responsible Purchasing for Faith Communities guide.
2. Take action.
3. Record your actions.
4. Tally up the positive impact of your actions.
5. Report your results to the Center for a New American Dream so that we can see the scope of our collective impact.

HOW MUCH WILL THESE ACTIONS COST ME?

For the most part, the recycled content products on the market are competitively priced with more "traditional" products that are made from virgin



resources. For such items as compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs), the initial cost is higher than normal incandescent lightbulbs. However, this cost is quickly recouped by the amount of energy saved. Over the entire life of a CFL, it is cheaper to purchase and operate than a normal incandescent light. In the long run, the social cost of environmental protection and cleanup borne by taxpayers will be reduced if we all take these eight simple actions to help to reduce our impact on the environment.

THE IMPACT

Every small action can add up to an enormous difference. If only 1,000 congregations take these actions over the course of 1 year we will prevent the emission of more than 10 million pounds of climate-warming carbon dioxide; save more than \$200,000 on electric bills; eliminate the use of 76,440 pounds of fertilizer, 15,600 pounds of pesticides, and 1,000 pounds of toxins; and save 2,160 trees and 91,000 gallons of water. That's enough change to help create a healthier, more just world.

HOW WILL THESE ACTIONS HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON SOCIAL JUSTICE?

There are many ways these eight simple actions can benefit people in your community and around the

world. By buying shade grown, organic, fair trade coffee, you will be supporting a system that pays coffee farmers realistic living wages for their labor and prevents their exposure to toxic pesticides. By purchasing and using recycled content products, recycling them, and eliminating junk mail you are greatly reducing the amount of resources that are being sent to landfills, which are disproportionately

located near low-income neighborhoods. Reducing energy use by installing CFLs is another action that benefits low-income neighborhoods since new power plants are often located in these areas. In addition, taking such simple actions as using green cleaning products instead of more toxic alternatives will reduce the amount of hazardous effluent in water supplies, which affects all of us but especially those who can't afford to drink bottled or filtered water.

HOW WILL THESE ACTIONS BENEFIT THE QUALITY OF MY LIFE?

Many of these actions can have a direct bearing on your own quality of life. Such actions as buying compact fluorescent lightbulbs will save your congregation money over time. Using environmentally friendly cleaning products will improve the health and safety of the cleaning staff. Eliminating pesticides from the grounds will create a healthier, safer environment for children and adults.



And, reducing junk mail will make the administrative staff's jobs a lot easier. Also, knowing that you're making sound purchasing decisions that benefit the Earth and other people contributes greatly to peace of mind and a sense of fulfillment.

WHO ELSE IS TAKING THESE KINDS OF ACTIONS?

In addition to the other congregations that are now participating in the Responsible Purchasing Program, thousands of individuals are currently taking part in

nine similar actions through Turn the Tide, another program developed by the Center for a New American Dream. Similar to the Responsible Purchasing Program, the actions participants in Turn the Tide are taking are also improving their quality of life, protecting the environment, and promoting social justice. There are also tens of thousands of other people across America independently taking the same small steps towards living out their values. By engaging in these action, you can be a part of a wide network of people who truly are making the world a better place.