

# Greener Congregation Vision Exercise

(Adapted 2026 by MC Canada for Emissions Reduction Grant)

This is an opportunity to think broadly about how creation care is part of your mission and to set goals for the future. We require this form because most congregations find it a helpful exercise, not because your selection depends on your achievements.

In the list below, you'll find a list of categories that represent areas of church life. For each category, we've included a "vision" for what this area of church life might look like to be a congregation moving towards a fuller understanding and practice of Creation Care. These are written to help you imagine movement and growth as a body of believers, responding to God's call to care for creation and protect the vulnerable of the Earth, to protect Life.

Print this discussion sheet and bring it to conversation with folks in your congregation who work in these areas. Then take some time to respond to these three questions:

1. Having looked at these visions, are there any surprising visions of creation care that you hadn't considered before?
2. What are 2-3 categories (from above) in which you can see your congregation engaging with more in the next year?
3. What's one concrete and doable action that you might work towards after thinking through these categories (what's the "next most possible" thing you might work on?)

Ideally, this will be a group process, not just the grant writer's opinions. Please share your reflections with other leaders in the congregation for discussion and discernment.

Though these are not necessary for this grant application, [discussion guides](#) are available for when your congregation is ready to take a deeper dive into each of these areas.

You'll be asked to share your responses to the 3 questions in your congregation's grant application. Have this paper handy.

**Congregation Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Completed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Completed by:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Instructions:

Each category of church life is accompanied by a "vision" for what it might look like to be a congregation moving towards a fuller understanding and practice of Creation Care.

Read through the following categories of church life and consider the descriptions attached. Consider how your congregational life compares to these visions. Respond in writing to the 3 questions at the bottom.

<b>Category</b>
<p><b>Vision for Creation Care</b> Stewardship of creation is named in the congregation's mission and core values. People understand caring for the earth as a key part of the Christian calling.</p>
<p><b>Creation Care Leaders</b> The congregation includes people with a passion and gifts for guiding the church in stewardship practices. The congregation recognizes and blesses these gifts.</p>
<p><b>Ecological Setting</b> The congregation is aware of its place in the local ecosystems, watershed and foodshed. Local soils, plants and animals are familiar to members, and they understand how to be careful stewards in this setting. Members are aware of the environmental issues in their community.</p>
<p><b>Creation Care in Worship &amp; Prayer</b> The worship experiences of the congregation recognize God's care for all created things. Caring for creation is addressed in sermons and appears in visual elements, in sharing times, in confessions, in song. Spiritual practices that foster compassion for the earth are encouraged.</p>
<p><b>Creation Care in Congregational Life</b> Groups and committees consider environmental impacts when making decisions. Structures are in place to enable practices such as recycling, carpooling, buying recycled materials.</p>
<p><b>Creation Care in Daily Living</b> Members are routinely challenged to adopt earth stewardship practices at home. Individuals have moved toward lower consumption lifestyles in the last five years.</p>
<p><b>Energy Audit</b> The stewardship of your congregation includes evaluating energy uses in the church building. The facilities committee has established a historical baseline of heating, cooling and lighting costs.</p>
<p><b>Practicing Ecojustice</b> The congregation participates in mission activities that promote ecojustice within the local community and beyond.</p>
<p><b>Advocacy</b> People speak out when laws or systems permit damage to the earth. They are attentive to environmental issues and understand how to communicate with their lawmakers effectively.</p>
<p><b>Creation Care Planning</b> The congregation has developed a comprehensive plan for reducing the ecological and carbon footprint of all areas of congregational life.</p>

## Reflections

1. Having looked at these visions, are there any surprising visions of creation care that you hadn't considered before?
2. What are 2-3 categories (from above) in which you can see your congregation engaging with more in the next year?
3. What's one concrete and doable action that you might work towards after thinking through these categories (what's the "next most possible" thing you might work on?)

Adapted from MCCN Greener Congregation Scoresheet.

