



Earth Care Congregations

Recertification Application Materials

Form 4 Earth Care Congregation Recertification Application

Form 5 Earth Care Congregation Recertification Environmental Audit

These forms may be typed into, saved onto your computer, and then attached to an email to environment@pcusa.org. Or, you may fax or mail to the listed contact information.

Form 4

EARTH CARE CONGREGATION RECERTIFICATION APPLICATION

To recertify, please complete this form and the Earth Care Congregation Recertification Environmental Audit (Form 5) 50 points are needed to be recertified, at least 5 in each category

The honor of being an Earth Care Congregation should be renewed each year by the anniversary of your church's application. Renewal requires earning a total of 50 points in the four categories with a minimum of 5 points in each category. (For recertification, points must be earned within the previous year, i.e., if the church's high-efficiency furnace was installed 4 years ago, it cannot be counted for recertification. However, if a church continues to use reusable dishes, this can be counted again for recertification. In general, if an item takes further or continued action, points count toward recertification.) Churches meeting the renewal requirements will be awarded an updated certificate, permission to use the ECC logo, and continued listing on the PC(USA) Environmental Ministries website.

Name of congregation: _____ Date: _____

Date of last Earth Care Congregation certification: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Contact person: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number of Earth Care Team members: _____

Name of team if not called "Earth Care Team" _____

We invite you to include photos, bulletins or newsletter articles in order to share ideas and best practices among congregations. For your recertification application to be complete, please attach the following:

Completed Earth Care Congregation Recertification Environmental Audit (Form 5)

Briefly describe your plans for recertification in each of the four areas for next year (50 points are needed to be recertified, at least 5 in each category):

Worship: _____

Education: _____

Facilities: _____

Outreach: _____

Send completed recertification application (this form and Form 5) to: _____

Mail: Environmental Ministries, PC(USA), 100 Witherspoon St., Room 3221, Louisville, KY 40202

Email: environment@pcusa.org

Fax: 502-569-8116

For questions call: (800) 728-7228 x5624

Form 5

ECC RECERTIFICATION ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

The honor of being an Earth Care Congregation should be renewed each year by the anniversary of your church's application. Renewal requires earning a total of 50 points in the four categories with a minimum of 5 points in each category. (For recertification, points must be earned within the previous year, i.e., if the church's high-efficiency furnace was installed 4 years ago, it cannot be counted for recertification. However, if a church continues to use reusable dishes, this can be counted again for recertification. In general, if an item takes further or continued action, points count toward recertification.) Churches meeting the renewal requirements will be awarded an updated certificate, permission to use the ECC logo, and continued listing on the PC(USA) Environmental Ministries website.

Notes:

- The following activities are by no means the only way for your congregation to act as stewards of God's earth. While all actions honor the glory of God's creation, the following audit was created as a way to standardize a scoring system for the program. Please use the "other" section, listed after outreach, to write in other activities that your congregation has completed over the past year that you would like to share with Environmental Ministries. You are encouraged to send in further information and pictures from events with your ECC application.
- In recording points in the worship, education and outreach sections of the Environmental Audit, the numbers in the shaded areas represent the number of times an action has been completed, and the numbers in the white area are the points associated with the items. For instance, if your church devoted one Sunday to earth care in the past year, you would receive 5 points.

If you have any questions about the audit, please do not hesitate to contact Environmental Ministries at environment@pcusa.org or (800) 728-7228 x5624.

WORSHIP (MINIMUM OF 5 WORSHIP POINTS NEEDED FOR RECERTIFICATION, WITH A TOTAL OF 50 POINTS FROM ALL 4 CATEGORIES)

Number of actions	1	2	3	4	5	Points
Number of Sundays devoted to earth care in the past year	5	10	15	20	25	_____
Number of worship services conducted outdoors in the past year	5	10	15	20	25	_____
Number of sermons on earth care in the past year	5	10	15	20	25	_____
Number of earth care awareness dramas or dances in worship in the past year	5	10	15	20	25	_____
Number of trees/shrubs planted for new members, baptisms, confirmations, etc.	2	4	6	8	10	_____

Number of actions	1	5	10	25	50	
Number of Sundays that worship services had an intentional earth care component (prayers, hymns, readings) in the past year	2	4	6	8	10	_____
Number of Sundays that an earth care themed banner or other art was displayed in the past year	2	4	6	8	10	_____
Number of Sundays that locally grown, pesticide free flowers were used in the sanctuary	2	4	6	8	10	_____
Number of Sundays that a Minute for Mission on earth care issues was presented	2	4	6	8	10	_____
Number of Sundays with a paperless service	2	4	6	8	10	_____

Actions	Yes	No	
Did your church purchase Eco-Palms (sustainably harvested palms) for Palm Sunday?	5	0	_____
Did your church promote and participate in earth care-focused Lent disciplines?	10	0	_____
Does your church use glass communion cups that are washed?	10	0	_____
Does your church have an outdoor meditation labyrinth or garden?	10	0	_____
Did your church sponsor an event for members to write a song, sermon, or prayer with an earth care theme?	10	0	_____

Subtotal for Worship _____

EDUCATION (MINIMUM OF 5 EDUCATION POINTS NEEDED FOR RECERTIFICATION, WITH A TOTAL OF 50 POINTS FROM ALL 4 CATEGORIES)

Number of actions	1	2	3	4	5	Points
Number of children's/youth Sunday school courses (series of classes) with an earth care focus	12	14	16	18	20	_____
Number of adult courses (series of classes) with an earth care focus	12	14	16	18	20	_____
Number of days Vacation Bible School had an earth care theme	4	8	12	16	20	_____
Number of guest earth care speakers or programs	4	8	12	16	20	_____
Number of classes held outside	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Number of youth projects related to earth care conducted	4	8	12	16	20	_____
Number of articles/announcements about earth care in the bulletin/newsletter	4	8	12	16	20	_____
Number of months a bulletin board on earth care was displayed	2	4	6	8	10	_____
Number of pages on the church's website devoted to earth care	4	8	12	16	20	_____
Number of books, games, videos, or other materials with an earth care focus in the church library	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Number of educational events focused on sustainable lifestyle choices for members	12	14	16	18	20	_____
Number of times email messages about earth care sent to church members	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Number of earth care fairs or educational events held	12	14	16	18	20	_____
Number of art displays or exhibits focused on earth care held at church	4	8	12	16	20	_____
	Yes	No				
Is an earth care component included in confirmation classes?	5	0				_____
Subtotal for Education						_____

FACILITIES (MINIMUM OF 5 FACILITIES POINTS NEEDED FOR RECERTIFICATION, WITH A TOTAL OF 50 POINTS FROM ALL 4 CATEGORIES)

Energy conservation	Yes	No				Points
Has your church earned recognition for greening efforts from a local, regional or national group? (such as ENERGY STAR for Congregations or Interfaith Power & Light)	5	0				_____
Does your church have any LEED-certified buildings?	10	0				_____
Has your session approved a plan to become carbon neutral? (suggested in the General Assembly 2006 Carbon Neutral Challenge)	5	0				_____
Does your church purchase renewable energy, i.e., wind, solar?	5	0				_____
Does your church have solar panels or a wind turbine to generate power?	10	0				_____
Has your church performed an energy audit and implemented at least two of the suggested items?	5	0				_____
Heating/Cooling						
	0	some	half	most	all	
Are your church's furnaces high-efficiency models?	0	2	3	4	5	_____
Are your church's air conditioners high-efficiency models?	0	2	3	4	5	_____
Are your church's HVAC systems programmable to turn on and off at set times?	0	2	3	4	5	_____
Are your church's HVAC systems zoned so that not all rooms need to be heated/cooled at the same time?	0	2	3	4	5	_____
Number of outside doors that seal tightly	0	2	3	4	5	_____
Number of windows that seal tightly	0	2	3	4	5	_____
Number of windows that are double-pane	0	3	5	7	10	_____
Number of windows that are covered with plastic or storm windows for energy efficiency	0	2	3	4	5	_____
Yes No						
Does your church use geothermal energy to heat and cool its facilities?	10	0				_____
Did your church perform 2 preseason (prior to using heat and air conditioning) checkups to maintain its HVAC system in the past year?	2	0				_____
Lighting						
	0	some	half	most	all	
Number of fixtures with efficient light bulbs: compact fluorescent light bulbs, LEDs, or efficient T8 tube lights	0	2	5	7	10	_____
Number of exit signs with light emitting diode (LED) bulbs	0	2	5	7	10	_____
Number of restrooms with motion sensors on lights	0	2	3	4	5	_____
Number of classrooms with motion sensors on lights	0	2	3	4	5	_____
Number of rooms with signs to turn off lights when you leave the room (if no motion sensors)	0	1	2	3	4	_____

Heating water	0	some	half	most	all	Points
Are your church's water heaters tankless or on-demand?	0	2	3	4	5	_____

Water conservation	0	some	half	most	all	
Number of dual-flush or low-flow toilets installed	0	2	5	7	10	_____
Number of waterless urinals installed	0	2	5	7	10	_____
Number of faucets with aerators	0	2	3	4	5	_____

Recycling/Waste	0	some	half	most	all	
Amount of discarded paper that is recycled	0	1	3	4	5	_____
Amount of recycled paper purchased	0	1	3	4	5	_____
Number of copies made that were double-sided	0	1	3	4	5	_____
Approximate amount of aluminum, glass, and plastic recycled	0	1	3	4	5	_____
Amount of food scraps and lawn/garden waste that is composted	0	1	3	4	5	_____
Amount of purchased paper products (napkins, paper towels, toilet tissue) made with recycled paper	0	1	3	4	5	_____
Number of tablecloths used that are reusable	0	1	3	4	5	_____

Recycling/Waste	0	some	half	most	all	
Number of plates used that are reusable	0	1	3	4	5	_____
Number of cups used that are reusable	0	1	3	4	5	_____
Amount of flatware used that is reusable	0	1	3	4	5	_____
Number of events where water is served from pitchers rather than disposable water bottles	0	1	3	4	5	_____
Amount of electronic equipment recycled	0	1	3	4	5	_____

	Yes	No	
Does your church serve as a recycling drop-off for church members and/or the community?	5	0	_____
Are church members given the option of receiving the church newsletter via email?	3	0	_____

Food	0	some	half	most	all	
Amount of coffee served that is fair trade (for example, from the Presbyterian Coffee Project)	0	1	3	4	5	_____
Number of meals with vegetarian choices	0	1	3	4	5	_____
Amount of organically or locally grown food purchased	0	1	3	4	5	_____

Cleaning Products	0	some	half	most	all	
Number of cleaners used that are less-toxic, i.e., vinegar, baking soda, salt, borax	0	1	3	4	5	_____

Grounds	0	some	half	most	all	Points
Amount of fossil fuel-based fertilizers used on grounds in past year	5	4	3	1	0	_____
Amount of chemical pesticides, including herbicides, used indoors and out in the past year	5	4	3	1	0	_____
Amount of plants on the church grounds that are native	0	1	3	4	5	_____
	YES NO					_____
Has your church taken steps to create wildlife habitat on the church grounds?	5	0				_____
Does your church have a bike rack on its property?	2	0				_____
	Yes No					_____
Does your facility have a rain barrel or cistern to catch water from gutters for later watering needs?	5	0				_____
Does your church have a rain garden, bioswale, or other feature to help manage storm water runoff?	5	0				_____
	0	some	half	most	all	
Amount of the parking lot that has permeable pavement	0	2	5	7	10	_____
Subtotal for Facilities						_____

OUTREACH (MINIMUM OF 5 OUTREACH POINTS NEEDED FOR RECERTIFICATION, WITH A TOTAL OF 50 POINTS FROM ALL 4 CATEGORIES)

Number of actions	1	2	3	4	5	Points
Number of camping trips, nature walks or outings in which your church has participated	4	8	12	16	20	_____
Number of days alternative transportation (walk/bike/bus/carpool) to church was promoted	4	8	12	16	20	_____
Number of times your session voted to take a stand on local, regional, or national earth care legislation	4	8	12	16	20	_____
Number of times members were encouraged to write or email elected officials about earth care legislation	2	4	6	8	10	_____
Number of public hearings or visits to elected officials' offices to advocate for earth care regulations or legislation in which a group from your church has participated	4	8	12	16	20	_____
Number of times petitions were available for members to sign for earth care campaigns or strategies	2	4	6	8	10	_____
Number of times the earth care issues from the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness, Hunger Program, Environmental Ministries, NCC Eco-Justice or related group email list-serve, website, or action alerts were used in an educational setting in the congregation	2	4	6	8	10	_____
Number of times used materials were donated for use in social justice projects such as Habitat for Humanity	2	4	6	8	10	_____
Number of times a service project related to earth care conducted	4	8	12	16	20	_____
	Yes	No				
Is your church a group member of Presbyterians for Earth Care?	5	0				_____
Did your church sponsor a scholarship for a member to attend the Presbyterians for Earth Care biennial conference?	5	0				_____
Does your church host direct farm marketing (including farmers markets, Community Supported Agriculture, buying clubs, or after services farm stand)?	5	0				_____
Did your church sponsor a mission trip focused on an earth care issue?	10	0				_____
Did your church sponsor an e-trash recycling or household hazardous waste day for the community?	5	0				_____
Does your church sponsor a community garden?	10	0				_____
Does your church share or rent office space with non-profit groups?	5	0				_____
Has your church purchased Sweat-Free T-shirts (made with organic cotton)?	5	0				_____
Does your church collaborate with other Presbyterian, ecumenical, interfaith, or secular groups focused on earth care?	5	0				_____
Did your church share information on your earth care ministry or about the Earth Care Congregations program with other churches or groups (through workshops, presentations or interviews)?	5	0				_____
Subtotal for Outreach						_____

TOTALS

Subtotal for Worship	_____
Subtotal for Education	_____
Subtotal for Facilities	_____
Subtotal for Outreach	_____
Total	_____

Congratulations on finishing your Earth Care Congregations Environmental Audit, and on all the good work that your congregation has done to protect God’s creation.

Other earth care activities your church has completed or other information to share:

For recertification: Renewal requires earning a total of 50 points in the four categories with a minimum of 5 points in each category. If the audit reflects this, please send to Environmental Ministries at the information below.

Please contact Environmental Ministries with any questions at (800) 728-7228, x5624

Mail: Environmental Ministries
PC(USA), 100 Witherspoon St
Room 3221
Louisville, KY 40202

Email: environment@pcusa.org
Fax: (502) 569-8116