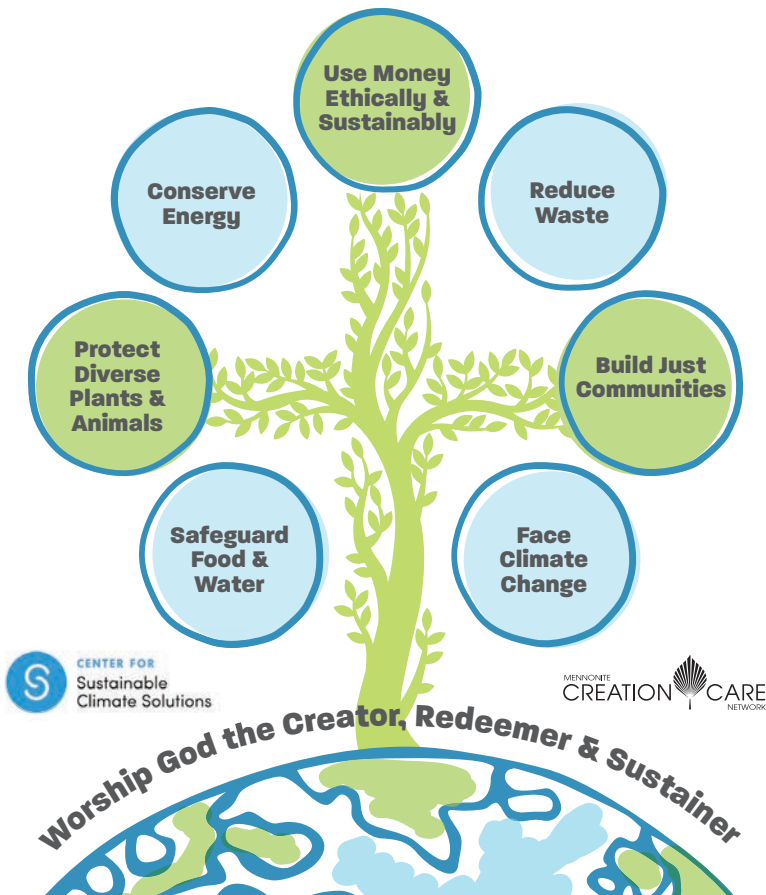


# Caring for the Earth

## Caring for the Earth: **TOP PRIORITIES**

**We all want a livable planet. But where do we begin?**

**Mennonite Creation Care Network** and the **Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions** suggest 8 priorities for churches, Christian organizations, and people of faith. Start with something that inspires you. Small actions can lead to big change!



# Ways to Care for Creation: Examples

Choose personal, congregational, and community or political action—all three approaches are needed. Find more ideas: [mennocreacioncare.org](http://mennocreacioncare.org); [sustainableclimatesolutions.org](http://sustainableclimatesolutions.org).

	Personal	Congregational	Community & Political
<b>Worship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walk in nature</li> <li>• Read eco-theology</li> <li>• Pray for creation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrate Earth Day</li> <li>• Include creation in worship</li> <li>• Teach “Every Creature Singing” curriculum.</li> </ul>	Host: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public prayer vigils</li> <li>• Wild/forest church</li> <li>• Eco-spirituality reading groups</li> </ul>
<b>Build Just Communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research local pollutants</li> <li>• Teach children justice</li> <li>• Promote diversity &amp; inclusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner with congregations of people of color</li> <li>• Start a green team or climate justice group</li> <li>• Learn about “Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support MCC Washington (or MCC Canada)</li> <li>• Join activities that cross dividing lines</li> <li>• Advocate for indigenous rights</li> </ul>
<b>Face Climate Change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share climate change facts</li> <li>• Waste less food</li> <li>• Add solar panels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray about natural disasters</li> <li>• Add solar panels on church</li> <li>• Plant trees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for carbon-neutral industries</li> <li>• Empower women</li> <li>• Share stories of renewal &amp; hope</li> </ul>
<b>Safeguard Food &amp; Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eat less meat</li> <li>• Shop at farmers’ markets</li> <li>• Volunteer with waterway protection groups like Riverwatch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donate to Mennonite Central Committee</li> <li>• Form a community garden</li> <li>• Plant rain garden to absorb stormwater</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for humane treatment of animals and just agriculture policies</li> <li>• Protect your watershed (<a href="http://watersheddiscipleship.org">watersheddiscipleship.org</a>)</li> </ul>
<b>Conserve Energy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buy an electric car</li> <li>• Cycle &amp; walk</li> <li>• Use LED bulbs</li> <li>• Install insulation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a creation care action plan</li> <li>• Do an energy audit</li> <li>• Seek green energy grants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shift workplace to green energy</li> <li>• Buy renewable energy from your local utility</li> <li>• Advocate for gas mileage standards on vehicles</li> </ul>
<b>Protect Bio-diversity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn local parks</li> <li>• Preserve habitats</li> <li>• Become a Master Naturalist</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mourn loss of species</li> <li>• Plant native species on church property</li> <li>• Observe St. Francis Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support expanding parks</li> <li>• Advocate for habitat protection</li> <li>• Support environmental groups</li> </ul>
<b>Reduce Waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consume less</li> <li>• Recycle &amp; reuse</li> <li>• Compost</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use recycling bins</li> <li>• Learn how waste affects marginalized communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Champion industrial recycling</li> <li>• Advocate for responsible mining</li> </ul>
<b>Use Money Sustainably</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invest in carbon neutral funds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buy from green companies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Influence businesses to focus on people, planet, as well as profit.</li> </ul>