



# FAITH COMMUNITIES GO GREEN

A COLLABORATION: GREEN UMBRELLA AND EQUASION

Education & Lifestyles Working Group  
Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 3, 2022, 7-8p

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/6868246320>  
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Attendees: Judy Lindblad, Deborah Vance, Mary Ann Mecher, Peter Nerone, Kyle Vath, Janet Steele, Becca Desai, Erly Kueain, Susan Vogt

- I. Introductions
- II. General Discussions
  - a. What do you view as the role of FCGG/Our Working Group? Aspirational? Actual?
    - i. Responses:
      1. Advocating (raising our voices together);
      2. An “umbrella” of faith communities, help recruit, educate, interacting and learning from, and sharing resources with each other, opening houses of worships to each other (similar to Sacred Connections-maybe quarterly)-(versus faith communities working alone);
      3. Goals/challenges of new Green Teams (goal by Earth Day possibly?);
      4. Educational opportunities (targeting members, bypassing hierarchy);
      5. Outreach to youth; publish existing resources/writings;
    - b. Desires of group as to format of meetings, activities, events, levels of involvement, etc.
      - i. What level of activities and involvement do you all hope to have?
        1. Involvement with Festival of Faiths
        2. Postcard-writing/advocacy
        3. Possibly quarterly in-person/in-HOWs
        4. Movies/discussions (movies-Roco Films/Becca)
        5. Book Clubs (Janet Steele)

6. Eco-Challenges (teams) – during Earth Month (April), People’s Challenge (October), Plastic (July)
7. Four faith communities as hosts in 2023 (Christ the King Lutheran, Sikh Congregation; possibly together with Sacred Connections/Becca)
8. Newsletters (Add Susan Vogt’s EcoTips; challenge of the month)

c. What topics are most interesting to you?

- i. Public transit (Erly)
- ii. Greening faith community events-fish fries, festivals, etc.;
- iii. Susan Fox-butterfly presentations;
- iv. Cj’s talks on UN work;
- v. Environmental movies;
- vi. Judy-retrofitting buildings;
- vii. Visits to Hub;
- viii. Free energy audits;
- ix. Native plants, Greening/Gleaning, Plastics, Gardening, Compost (Deb Vance);
- x. Green Teams (Judy, hosting sites);
- xi. Greening events (Peter/Susan);
- xii. Getting info out about energy efficiency (Peter),
- xiii. Young children/youth, Kids4Peace/schools/libraries (Becca/Mary Ann);
- xiv. Recycling/Plastic (Susan),
- xv. EcoTips (Susan);
- xvi. Eco-Challenges (Fred);
- xvii. Movies (Becca/Kyle);
- xviii. Book Clubs (Janet);
- xix. Green Plans (Kyle);
- xx. EVs-webinar, other non-Saturday EV event (Kyle)
- xxi. Some topics already suggested:
  1. Greening and Gleaning (see reflection on next page)
  2. Air Pollution (Thursday, Dec 15, 7-8, Marilyn Wall, Sierra Club)
  3. Electric Vehicles (Sunday, Nov 6, Congregation Beth Adam)
  4. Rooftop Solar
  5. IRA Bill
  6. Native Plants
  7. Green Team help/Developing Green Plans for Congregations
  8. Plastic reduction advocacy
  9. Recycling information

III. Next Meeting? (Meet every two months...Next one in January?)

**Attachment from Mike Eck:**

**Greening and Gleaning**

- Inspire people to fall in love with nature
- Inspire individuals to go and glean once

Love God, Love your neighbor, fall in Love with Mother Nature

Go outside

to see ... to touch

to listen ... to smell Creation

to taste ... farm fresh food

grown in local gardens and local farms

Go outside

just you, by yourself or

with immediate family or

with friends

u-Pick at the "Once in a Blue Moon" blueberry farm near Waynesville (north of Lebanon)

Go outside

visit the Christ the King Lutheran Church garden and grounds in West Chester (up Rt. 42 north of I-275)

Go outside

stop by the Our Harvest Bahr Farm and market in College Hill (near Winton and North Bend Rd.)

Go outside

tour one of the Community Gardens in Walnut Hills such as the Good News Garden (near downtown)

Go outside

be stunned when you stop to see and know Tikkun Farm in Mt. Healthy (near Hamilton Ave. south of I-275)

Go outside

Go glean with the Society of St. Andrew (including at farms in southern Ohio, northern KY and SE Indiana)

just you, by yourself or

with family or friends

sign up

Fall in Love all over again, maybe for the first time

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Mike Eck

## Attachment From Susan Vogt:

### SUSTAINABLE MEETINGS

Guidelines for organizations and faith-based groups

Draft: rev, 2022-11-3

#### GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

*As faith-based groups we look to bring a sacred perspective to the human community and all creation through:*

- \* Being mindful and intentional*
- \* Educate, Share, don't judge*
- \* Leading by example*
- \* Be aware of not excluding groups of people*
- \* Don't strive for perfection - Strive for what is appropriate, realistic, and sustainable*

1. **Communication** (before, during, and after meetings)
  - Digitize as much as possible but be aware of varying levels of digital skills/equipment
  - When print materials are used, print on both sides
2. **Travel** to meetings
  - When possible, choose a location that doesn't require much travel
  - For local meetings encourage carpooling, public transportation, biking...
  - For distant meetings consider energy impact of car/plane travel. Is online appropriate?
3. **Facility**
  - Assess energy use during meetings such as heating, cooling, lighting, charging stations.
  - When using a hotel/retreat center, etc. ask about their sustainability policies. Can they minimize travel-size plastic bottles, turn-down service, etc.?
4. **Prayer**
  - As always, we meet in the spirit of God as creator of all life and nature. .
5. **Meeting supplies**
  - Minimize unnecessary paper (see #1) and single use products (especially plastics)
  - Maximize reusable products such as water dispensers, washable cups, plates, utensils...
6. **Food/Beverages**
  - Support local food and businesses
  - Maximize non-animal products. offer vegetarian, vegan etc.
  - Fair trade coffee/tea when possible
  - Encourage people to bring their own water bottle
  - Reduce food waste and/or arrange how to donate leftovers
7. **Recycle**
  - Provide separate trash cans for recyclables and garbage (ideally compostables also). Know where to take each after the meeting. Be trash sensitive as methane accumulates from landfills.

## 8. Personal Hygiene (especially while Covid is still around and if meeting indoors)

- Alert participants to location of bathrooms
- Arrange seating with enough personal space
- If necessary, have signage reminding people to cough/sneeze into their elbow, not hand

## 9. Enriching Environmental Resources

- When appropriate/possible, connect with local resources/people for enrichment.
- Consider eco-related service activity in free time.
- For more information contact:
  - Faith Communities Go Green/Equa\$ion - <https://greenumbrella.org/faith>
  - *Global Stewards* comprehensive eco-resources list - <https://www.globalstewards.org/index.htm>

## 10. The Bigger Picture

- Consider social justice issues in organizing meetings (location, facility, labor issues, following local environmental/cultural protocols, etc.)
- Consider Carbon Offset options when carbon use is unavoidable (i.e., air travel). For examples see Energy Intelligence Center (EIC) <https://www.eic.co.uk/4-types-of-carbon-offset-projects/>