







## Sustainability Actions Checklist

### Communicate a strong commitment message of support from Pastor to Vestry and Congregation

#### Establish a structure for success:

- Establish a Sustainability Working Group/ Committee
- Make a Vestry Resolution to recognize, support and embrace the values and actions of the committee
- Develop Vision and Mission Statements for the committee that reflect and complement the church mission
- Set overarching goals such as: Zero Waste by 2030, Zero Emissions from on-site combustion by 2035, Net zero energy by 2035. Make decisions made at the church
- Brainstorm a Laundry List of Possible Actions
- Identify 3 Actions that are achievable in the short term
- Assign Point Person/ people; Develop Budget; Develop Action Plan; At and then Report on results

#### Measure: Create a Baseline for Comparison

- Audit Utility bills (water, electric, storm water, gas, other fuels) for past two years and create spreadsheet; Graph; Convert costs that look out of line
- Conduct a waste audit that weighs all waste streams and identifies elements included in the stream.
- Pull preventive maintenance and scheduled maintenance records for mechanical equipment for past 5 years. Identify wa
- Audit and list out all the products that the church buys in a year's time.
- Audit cleaning/ pest management practices and cleaning products.
- Identify peer churches to develop a benchmarking group to measure consumption and progress and create a partnership

#### Act:

##### - Communicate - Be Heard

- Incorporate sustainability into prayerful practice
- Host a Climate Reality Project speaker at an adult education hour to underscore the need for action.
- Insert sustainable living hints and tips into the Sunday Bulletin
- Write blog posts for the church website about climate issues and sustainable lifestyle actions
- Host speakers that provide hope and action such as: PWD and PHS with Raincheck that install rain barrels at attendee hc renewable energy and how citizens can choose to switch, or Zero Waste Cabinet to discuss what happens to waste and how composting/ growing your own vegetables/ demonstrating how to change filters/ PECO and changing light bulbs...
- Reach out to the community through signage, fairs, etc.. to spread the word.
- Make signage and place on walls near where change is happening - tell what, why, how and the results

##### - Be Seen

- Identify an activity that everyone goes to like the Coffee Hour and use it to show actions being taken at the church and th hour waste through conscious purchasing and disposal (compostable cups, plates, napkins and stirrers; recyclable info flye (water in a pitcher, compostable, recyclable or reusable glasses), Healthy snacks, Open the curtains/ blinds and dim the light consumption, Make signage to tell people what they are seeing, Use non-toxic cleaning products.

##### - Focus on Congregational Health

- Test potable water for lead and other hazards. If necessary install water filtration system. If lead found test at water intake Investigate solutions.
- Provide access to drinking water in church building via fountain or filter dispenser.
- Provide nutritious snacks and foods at gatherings
- Ensure optimized Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) by maintaining HVAC systems and filters; Utilize MERV 11 or greater HVAC filters
- Reduce congregant and staff exposure to hazardous substances:
  - Install dirt trapping walk off mats at all entrances
  - Use non-toxic cleaning products and maintain clean environment with scheduled maintenance; Adopt Green Seal Certified vacuums to ensure they utilize HEPA filters

---- Use non-toxic pest management techniques and chemicals

---- Encapsulate or remove all lead paint

---- Remove all asbestos.

---- Use organic gardening practices on grounds and order organic/ not-treated flowers at events.

---- Install air filters in offices that use printers and copiers to reduce exposure to airborne inks

---- Use only low to no-VOC paints and coatings

---- Audit products on site and ordered over past year for noxious chemicals and identify substitutes

---- Audit buildings for mold and mildew and repair as needed.

#### **- Electricity:**

-- Raise the thermostat set point of the church and offices on the air conditioning and lower it on the heating side by at least

-- Everyday encourage staff, stakeholders and congregants to turn off the lights when not in the room, to power down computer machinery that stays warm for instant on (printers, copiers, TV's...).

-- Evaluate switching to renewable electricity by choosing a provider that supplies wind and solar generated power

-- Contact PECO to conduct an energy audit to identify ways to reduce consumption

-- Contact PECO to apply for energy saving measure incentives

-- Conduct an audit of all lightbulbs, fans, auxiliary heaters and dehumidifiers, and HVAC machinery on the property. Create a list of bulb and wattage and an estimate of hours run by day of the week; Model, make, serial number, approx. age, and amperage of motors by day of week; Model, make, serial number, size in Btu's/Watts/Tons of units, number and size of filters, last maintenance application and for identifying ways to change operations practices to reduce consumption.

-- Set up a preventive maintenance program for all machinery.

-- Change incandescent bulbs to LED

-- Evaluate and plan long term to install a solar PV array on the campus.

-- Measure: Keep track of electricity usage and billing and compare to baseline to see impact of actions

#### **- Gas**

-- Evaluate switching to more earth friendly gas supplier that offers biofuel choice

-- Evaluate and plan long term to convert from gas to electricity for heating and cooling.

-- Evaluate and plan long term to convert hot water heater to electricity or solar thermal.

-- Evaluate and plan long term to convert gas range to electric induction heat.

-- Measure: Keep track of gas usage and billing and compare to baseline to see impact of actions

#### **- Water**

-- Contact PWD and apply for charitable deduction for potable water use

-- Change all faucet aerators to low flow aerators

-- Change all shower heads to low flow units

-- Plan to, over time, change all toilets to low flow units but until change out install volume displacement items in the tank

-- Landscape with drought tolerant plants that easily adapt to wet weather. Also plant for the future keeping in mind a one

-- If possible, install rain barrels at all downspouts and use rainwater for irrigation

-- Evaluate and plan long term to install rainwater capture tanks and use rainwater for toilets, showers, dishwashers, washing

-- Evaluate and plan long term to install greywater capture tanks and treatment system for use in toilets and irrigation.

-- Measure: Keep track of water usage and billing and compare to baseline to see impact of actions

#### **- Storm water**

-- Contact PWD and apply for storm water credits that may be applicable to the property

-- Contact PWD to evaluate property for areas that could be converted from pervious to impervious surface to reduce fees

#### **- Cleaning Practices**

-- Switch to products and practices that are safe for humans and animals. Use Green Seal Certified Products.

-- Switch to pest management services that use safe methods and chemicals.

#### **- Purchasing**

-- Evaluate products that the church purchases to see if they are necessary, whether there is an alternative that is more sustainable, recycled, compostable, does not contain harmful chemicals, has not been bleached. Partner with vendor for success in change.

#### **- Waste**

-- Benchmark; identify ways to reduce, reuse, dispose of differently (recycle, donate, compost...)

-- Partner with a composting company or set up an on-site composting system for the church for yard waste, food waste, etc. such as compostable: paper towels, napkins, cups, plates, coffee filters

-- Join Philacycle to get rewards for your recycling efforts.

-- Teach the staff, stakeholders and congregants to Recycle Right by auditing the stream on a regular basis.

-- Work with partner organizations to reduce the waste they bring to the campus

-- Work with vendors to reduce packaging, consolidate deliveries, avoid shrink-wrap, investigate refillable containers rather than single-use

-- Measure: Keep track of weights of waste streams on a weekly basis and of billings from service providers and compare to baseline

#### **- Grounds Maintenance**

-- Practice organic gardening. Do not spray weeds, plants or trees with chemicals. Mulch with organic compost.

-- Replace gas engines with solar rechargeable electric mowers and leaf blowers.

-- Compost yard and lawn waste

-- Consider planting food bearing fruit trees for donating to needy community

#### **- Transportation**

-- Provide electric vehicle charging station(s) on the campus

-- Provide secure and safe bike parking facilities on the campus

-- Provide affordable and low carbon transportation for parishioners via:

--- Electric van/ shuttle

--- Car share program

<https://realityhub.climaterealityproject.org/events/attendpresentation>

[For Raincheck contact Rosemary Howard at rhoward@pennhort.org; For the Energy Coop <http://theenergycoop.com/>; For the Zero Waste Cabinet - <https://www.philadelphiastreet.com/zero-starts-with-one/>](#)

[http://www.peco.com/WaysToSave/ForYourHome/Pages/EnergyAssessment.aspx?utm\\_source=peco.com](http://www.peco.com/WaysToSave/ForYourHome/Pages/EnergyAssessment.aspx?utm_source=peco.com)  
<https://www.peco.com/WaysToSave/ForYourBusiness/Pages/LightingEquipment.aspx>

<https://www.phila.gov/water/educationoutreach/customerassistance/pages/default.aspx>

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