



Green Star Award 2024 Application

Introduction

The purpose of the Green Star Award is to recognize any Unity congregation that has completed at least **three** significant environmental activities in calendar year **2023** that fosters awareness of our spiritual oneness with the Earth and promotes active care of creation. Although the minimum is three, you can submit as many as you like.

The accomplishments must correlate to one of the seven steps and/or eight actions of the *Path to EarthCare*. The applications must be supported by appropriate documentation. Examples include videos, pictures, newspaper articles, announcements, brochures, etc.

All applications are due by **Monday, May 13, 2024**. Following review by the EarthCare Core Team, awardees will be individually notified.

Awardees will be featured on the UWM website, the EarthCare Facebook page and in the *EarthCare Connections* newsletter. They also will be announced at the business meeting of this year's annual Unity convention at Unity Village. Finally, you will receive a certificate suitable for framing.

Applications may be sent electronically to: Michael_mccord@sbcglobal.net.

USPO Delivery: Mike McCord, 1209 N. Leevue Drive, Olathe, KS 66061.

For questions, call Mike at 913.907.4061 or at the email address listed above.

2024 Green Star application for activities in calendar year 2023

(please type or print):

Name of Congregation:

Street/P.O. Box:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone:

Fax No:

Website:

Senior Minister/Spiritual Leader:

Email Address:

Phone No.:

President/Chair of Governing Body:

Email:

Contact Person:

Address:

Phone No.:

Email Address:

For each activity, please provide the following:

No. 1

Name/Title:

Description:

Purpose:

Step or action in the Path to EarthCare and/or EarthCare Program:

Date(s):

Number of participants:

Results:

Support material:

No. 2

Name/Title:

Description:

Purpose:

Step or action in the EarthCare Program:

Date(s):

Number of participants:

Results:

Support material:

No. 3

Name/Title:

Description:

Purpose:

Step or action in the EarthCare Program:

Date(s):

Number of participants:

Results:

Support material:

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name of Signee _____

Title _____



The Path to EarthCare

Unity EarthCare Ministry Team

Website: www.unityworldwideministries.org/earthcare

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UnityEarthCare>

Contact: earthcare@unity.org

Overview:

The purpose of the Path to EarthCare and EarthCare Program is to assist church communities in integrating an earth-oriented spirituality into their ministry. They manifest Unity's Fifth Basic Principle: *Through thoughts, words, and actions we live the truth we know.* As a result, they will discover what Spirit calls them to do to care for our Earth home and its inhabitants.

The Path to EarthCare

- 1. Pray**
Prayer creates a consciousness for inspiration, guidance and community. Prayer will guide your ministry to express its unique vision of caring for the earth and creation.
- 2. Vision**
Vision defines the purpose, critical processes and goals of the **EarthCare Program**. This will result in an EarthCare Covenant. It may also include a vision statement and mission statement to guide your ministry. Examples are on the EarthCare website.
- 3. Inspire**
Through prayers, songs and special ceremonies, divine ideas will blossom into creative and meaningful expressions of caring for the earth and creation. This will be expressed as an Action Plan.
- 4. Educate**

Education is a key component to fully comprehend and understand the complexities of environmental and social justice issues, as related to the earth and creation.

5. **Act**

Right action will follow based upon the needs and vision of the community to care for the earth and creation. The actions may be simple or complex, contained solely within the ministry or in conjunction with other community activities. The actions are as follows:

1. **Energy/Environmental Audit.** An **energy audit** assesses all aspects of energy usage, while an **environmental audit** is a comprehensive analysis of the building, grounds, lighting, water use, HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) and business operations. Either is acceptable. Many local energy suppliers provide energy only audits for free. In addition, there are formats on the EarthCare webpage that you can use to conduct either an abbreviated or comprehensive in-house environmental audit.

This action is mandatory unless it is not feasible for your congregation. If it is not feasible, please contact your regional representative or the EarthCare Program Coordinator to discuss alternatives.

2. **Energy/Water Conservation.** Reducing carbon dioxide will help preserve ecological Systems. By practicing water conservation the supply and the cleanliness of water will be sustained.

3. **Waste Minimization.** Be a mindful consumer of goods purchased, or of food wasted. Reduce, reuse and repurpose!

4. **Recycling.** Perhaps the easiest way to be earth-friendly.

5. **Conservation of Natural Resources.** Adopt, maintain, promote or protect one of our Earth's ecosystems and resources. Examples include parks, trails, streams, neighborhoods, streets/ highway, cemetery, beach, or conservation areas either directly or in partnership with other organizations.

6. **Interdependent Web of Creation.** Undertake actions that represent a renewed reverence and respect for all forms of life as well as the interdependent web of creation. By replacing policies and practices that are detrimental to the environment with behaviors that demonstrate respect for the interconnectedness of creation, our consciousness comes into deeper alignment with divine mind and more fully expresses the Vision of EarthCare. Some examples include sacred rituals and periodically hosting movies, symposiums, workshops and presentations that promote a better understanding of our interconnectedness with one another, all living things and the web of creation.

7. Environmental and Social Justice. Climate change is an issue resulting in both environmental degradation and social injustice. As such, EarthCare’s vision is of an environmentally just world that is free from oppression and discrimination. It is one that provides worthy and fair treatment of all humanity irrespective of race color, creed, income, place of origin, or gender identity. Social Justice also applies to all non-human sentient beings, who not only have a right to freedom from ecological destruction but a moral entitlement to just treatment.

*As stated in **Jesus Christ Heals**, by Charles Fillmore: We all intuitively know there is something wrong in a world where poverty, suffering, and sorrow prevail. We would not, any of us, create such a world. We all want to see these things blotted out in this world.*

For more information see "Environmental and Social Justice" on the EarthCare Website.

8. Mindful Eating. Help restore our sacred relationships with the earth, animals, and all creation by raising consciousness that our food choices are a spiritual practice that promotes care for both ourselves and the earth. Mindful Eating goes beyond that which we put in our mouths. It involves expanding our understanding of, connection with and reverence for every thing associated with the food chain and its interrelationship with all of creation. A complete description of Mindful Eating, with examples, can be found on the EarthCare website.

6. Share

As ministries share their achievements, within the ministry and to the community at-large, the EarthCare goals and accomplishments expand outward exponentially through connection and networking.

7. Re-affirm

Through sacred ceremony/ritual, a ministry is able to re-affirm its EarthCare covenant on an annual basis, thereby kindling enthusiasm and zeal for this most sacred work. It also provides an opportunity to reassess where the program has been and where it may lead in the future. Celebrate annually EarthCare’s accomplishment in a ceremony to help vision your future objectives, goals & activities.