

# EARTH DAY IDEAS

The goal of **EARTHDAY.ORG** (<https://www.earthday.org/>) is to provide the resources needed for activated citizens to act, innovate and implement activities that bring together businesses, governments and citizens.



There are many ways in which your congregation can get involved. For example Interfaith Power & Light (IPL) (<https://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/>) has a number of activities you can join or use to create your own environmental stewardship and climate action program.

Another organization is the **Sunrise Movement** (<https://www.sunrisemovement.org/>). This energetic organization is building a movement of young people across race and class to stop the climate crisis and win a Green New Deal.

As they say, *We're on a mission to put everyday people back in charge and build a world that works for all of us, now and for generations to come. Join us for a 1-hr video call to connect with people like you across the country, hear our plan to win, and find your home in the movement.*

In addition, EarthCare offers ideas for a number of ideas and resources that can be used by all types of spiritual centers. For example, whether you own or rent your facility you can replace light bulbs with florescent or LED, adopt office policies that reduce/ reuse/recycle or require purchase of environmentally friendly products, and place Goodwill or Big Brother/Sister recycling bins on your property (with landlord permission for renters).

## And the list goes on!

- Advocate for environmental and social justice issues. For more information, search the internet for "environmental And social issue organizations."
- Offer classes promoting the environment or educating congregants regarding sustainability issues.
- Use the [Co2 emissions fact sheet](#) website and/or the document on the website entitled *Carbon Dioxide (CO2) Saved Annually per Average Household*, calculate the eco savings congregations are saving by having by having a virtual ministry.
- Start a Zoom environmental book club.
- Invite congregants to watch eco-documentaries on Discovery+ or Netflix, then have a Zoom meeting to discuss.
- Have a monthly outdoor nature activity.
- Develop a community and/or meditation garden.
- Include Earth prayers in Sunday services, meditations and in monthly or quarterly newsletters.
- Build a Labyrinth for reflecting on our connection with all creation.
- Mention care for the earth, air, water, and all living things in the weekly meditation.
- Include an Earth Prayer in monthly or quarterly newsletters.

- Create a consciousness for the work through prayer by affirming and promoting the interdependent web of existence and by acknowledging our deep connections with the natural world and with our living planet.
- Dedicate Sunday services, more than once a year, to the vision of EarthCare that, ***All humanity lives in a spiritual consciousness that manifests as loving co-existence with all creation and care for our Earth home.***
- Periodically have special ceremonies that honor our connectedness with the natural world, such as:
  - ▶ Have a “Turning of the Seasons” ceremony. See Resources at our Facebook Page or on the EarthCare webpage.
  - ▶ Conduct the “Blessing of the Waters” ceremony. See Resources at our Facebook Page or on the EarthCare webpage.
  - ▶ Hold Sunday services outdoors.
  - ▶ Create a sacred table can be adorned to reflect the season and its spiritual gift.
  - ▶ Have a Labyrinth walk.
  - ▶ Hold tree blessing ceremonies.
  - ▶ Medicine wheel ceremonies.
  - ▶ Have "Animal Blessing Sunday." Pets are brought to church to be blessed. A popular time to hold this is near the Feast of St. Francis (Oct. 3).
- Go on an “Earth Day walk at the Zoo.”
- Clean a local stream, park or highway.
- Many communities have walks to commemorate Earth Day or Earth Month. Create a team and participate.
- Have a field trip and hike in a local park or nature preserve. Finish the day with a picnic or dinner at a restaurant.
- Conduct Advent through Epiphany services that honor the mineral, plant, animal, and human kingdoms.
- Dedicate the month of April to the elements. Feature a different aspect of the environment each week.
- Fly prayer flags from the church building.
- Develop a seven-week series on an inspirational book on caring for the earth.
- Visit a sacred site near your church.

Whatever you choose, you will be calling attention to our oneness with the natural world and our co-inhabitants.