FAITH COMMUNITIES GO GREEN

MISSION:
Partnering with religious communities to create a more sustainable and equitable future for all by mobilizing their moral voice to reduce the risk of catastrophic climate change.

STEERING COMMITTEE:
Joanne Gerson, Chair
James P. Buchanan, Ph.D., Co-Chair
Simone Bess
Justin Kirschner
Anas B. Malik, Ph.D.
Pat Timm, Ph.D.
Caroljean Willie, Ph.D.
Rashida Manuel

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:
• We keep open minds, value everyone’s ideas and respect diverse opinions.

• We use accessible language and translate ideas into language that is easily understandable.

• We are willing to learn.

• We respect the process and commit to it; we believe process is product.

• We commit to finding the right questions and struggle with common questions.

• We keep the common good top of mind.

• We are willing to compromise.

• We are willing to take risks.

• We utilize a systems lens by maintaining a holistic, long-term vision of the full system rather than focusing on parts of it.
ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

15 RELIGIONS AND DENOMINATIONS REPRESENTED BY OUR MEMBERS

GROWTH OF MEMBERSHIP FOR 2021
Membership grew from 8 to 220.
ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

50 - 60

Congregations, houses of worship, and organizations represented by our members

54+

Passionate, talented, highly-active volunteers are creating webinars and programs to advance faith communities’ efforts to protect our planet.
ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH AND OUTCOMES

ECOCHALLENGE TEAMS GREW FROM

10 TO 54

PARTICIPANTS

OUR MOST RECENT TEAM PLACED IN THE

TOP 10%

OF THIS GLOBAL ECOCHALLENGE THAT INCLUDED

53 COUNTRIES
OUTCOMES

3

LIVE WEBINARS DELIVERED WITH ON-DEMAND RECORDINGS

RESULTING IN ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS CHANGES AT

4

HOUSES OF WORSHIP, INCLUDING LED'S, THE ADDITION OF GREEN SPACE, AN INSULATION AUDIT, LIGHTING AUDIT, AND ENERGY AUDIT.
OUTCOMES

OUTREACH TO

6,000+

MEMBERS OF THE GREEN UMBRELLA NETWORK FOR OUR FIRST LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

150 MEMBERS OF 50 CONGREGATIONS WERE SURVEYED TO COLLECT DATA
ADVOCACY

Provide timely information on emerging policy and legislation, information on how people can inform themselves at greater depth, and policy makers’ contact information, for faith communities to use as they will. We model faithful stewardship of the planet by encouraging congregations and faith-based endowments to divest in fossil fuels.

Group Leader - Ariel Miller

EDUCATION/ LIFESTYLES

Inspire the diverse faith communities within the Greater Cincinnati area to reduce their carbon footprint by recognizing the moral and spiritual value of creation care and by making sustainable lifestyle choices an integral part of the educational and liturgical life of our faith communities.

Group Leaders - Mary Ann Mecher and Becca Desai

FACILITIES

Work with houses of worship and religious institutions in our Greater Cincinnati area to reduce their environmental impact by lowering their carbon footprint through implementation of actions described in a Facilities Toolkit.

Group Leader - Ken Wright
ADVOCACY WORKING GROUP REPORT FOR 2021
First Year Overview:
We have a dynamic task force with members who are Jewish, Muslim, Catholic, and from several Protestant traditions. Our advocates range in age from grade school to grandparents. We meet by Zoom the second Wednesday of the month at noon, and keep in touch by email in the meantime. Highlights of this year:
• We hosted a Win-Win Energy Policy for Ohio webinar on April 22 with Trish Demeter and Chris Tavenor of the non-partisan Ohio Environmental Council (OEC).
• We developed an advocacy process (see “How we work,” below)
• We met with Green Umbrella’s Executive Director to discuss and refine it.
• We have chosen priority bills to follow in the current legislative session
• The Girl Scout Troop including our two youngest members submitted testimony asking for repeal of HB 6 and created a big wave at the Statehouse, according to Sen. Cecil Thomas!
• We met with staff of Ohio Environmental Council and Buckeye Environmental Network
• We held a town hall meeting with Ohio Rep. Sedrick Denson
• We encouraged Green Umbrella to host a workshop on redistricting – held July 20
• On 9/20 we issued our first Action Alert (SB 117) on GU’s Facebook page and MailChimp

Principles: drawing on ethics of stewardship, justice, and compassion which are central to all our participating faiths, we advocate for policies to preserve the environment on which we all depend for survival. We also seek policies to foster equity. That means working to end the disproportionate impacts of price, pollution, and climate change on disadvantaged communities.

Policy Priorities:
We seek policies that foster:
• energy conservation and clean energy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce electric bills. Our top goal on that is the repeal of HB 6
• clean air, water, and soil. In addition to getting rid of the backward policies of HB 6, we’re fighting HB 282, which would allow the radioactive fracking brine AquaSalina to be sold as a commodity without being subject to environmental oversight.
**ADVOCACY**

**How we work**: We work collaboratively as an interfaith team. Every one of us is doing this as a volunteer, and can’t do this alone. We are partnering with three trusted Ohio non-profits who have their finger on the pulse of Ohio policy-makers:

**Ohio Environmental Council, Buckeye Environmental Network, and Ohio Citizen Action**.

We are *non-partisan*, focusing on policies and their likely impact on environment and people.

We agreed to start by *developing a vision of what we are for*: sustainable, clean energy, clean air, water and soil, and environmental justice. We have begun developing statements of principle and vision that we can use to evaluate specific policy priorities. Policy often moves fast in the Ohio Legislature, with very little advance notice. By collaborating with the statewide non-profits who are staffed to monitor emerging legislation, **We are trying to be proactive instead of reactive.**

We plan to:

- Present an explicit faith-based perspective to engage legislators who claim to be faithful.
- Set up meetings with key committee chairs to build rapport.
- Team up with other allies for specific policy asks, such as the business community, AARP, health care providers, and local governments.
- Focus on opportunities for a win and share results with our networks
- Thank helpful policy-makers on their social media as well as our own.

The first win we pushed for is Fair Districts. As Chris Tavenor of the Ohio Environmental Council put it, “we realize that a healthy environment depends on a healthy democracy.

The second is to continue to push for the repeal of HB 6.

Last week our first advocacy alert, developed by Ted Bergh of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, urged our congregations to call their Ohio Senator to urge passage of Ohio Senate Bill 117.

As proposed, Ohio Senate Bill 117 will end a major injustice of HB 6: forcing electric customers to subsidize inefficient and heavily polluting coal plants. The bill would refund past subsidy payments to ratepayers.
Our working group’s Objective:
That the moral and spiritual importance of care for creation become an integral part of the educational and liturgical life of our faith communities.

Our Goals:
To Create a Toolkit of resources that can be used to achieve our objectives.

Our Strategies: include the programs and activities organized by the various sub-groups of this working group. The sub-groups will report on their work and progress with metrics.

We have 21 members in our group, though not everyone always attends all the meetings. We meet once a month. We have met every month since October 2020, but we skipped meeting in August due to hectic schedules most members had in that month. We will be meeting on 21st September next.

We have divided our members into subgroups based on members’ interest. The seven subgroups are as mentioned below.

- The Survey subgroup is planning an inventory of care for creation materials currently in use by our faith communities here. They created and distributed a survey to about 150 faith communities, and heard back from about 30 of them. Cj is currently working with a group of people from some faith communities on creating a webinar on ‘how to form a Green Team’ within a faith community and they are also creating a list of resources for the Green Team to use.

- The Movie/Discussion subgroup is planning to begin showing movies later this year under a “Care for Environment” theme and have begun building a list.
The Eco-Challenge subgroup organized a plastics eco-challenge for the month of July 2021, led by Fred Desai. The event was promoted through Green Umbrella’s newsletter, on its website and through some outside newsletters as well. See Fred’s report* on this event below. Fred has initiated efforts again for the faith communities to participate in another ecochallenge in October (6-27) called the People’s EcoChallenge. See the flyer being advertised among all our contacts attached with this report.

The Webinars and Workshops subgroup organized a webinar on July 29, 2021, on Reducing Single Use Plastic, presented by Susan Vogt. See Susan’s report** on this event below. This group is refining a potential speaker/topic list that continues to evolve. For future events, Cj will review her webinars (see local list) plus those from Faith in Place and Green Faith to offer one of these in the upcoming months sponsored by GU. Susan Carlson will consider whether she will be prepared to do her “Eco-Anxiety talk by November.

The Greening and Gleaning subgroup is working on educating the public to find a sense of urgency to change our relationship with nature and to develop activities such as community gardens or community gleaning. We plan to work closely with our contact, Sue Plummer at the Society of St. Andrews, to learn about gleaning opportunities and make them available to volunteers in various faith communities, and provide the gleaned produce to local food pantries. The challenge in advertising these opportunities through the GU newsletter (which needs us to give them the event info at least 6-8 weeks before the event), is that Gleaning opportunities come suddenly, and cannot be planned too much in advance. But we have learned about this work this year, and we hope to do our best in bringing these opportunities to interested volunteers who want to glean to benefit food pantries with their gleaned produce.

The Tool Kit/Reader subgroup is the collecting information and resources since almost the past one year that will go in the toolkit. Fred reported that The FCGG steering committee had a meeting to outline what the toolkit for a congregation would contain. We will take elements of this template that can be applied to households and fill in the information on the relevant topics, like carbon footprint reduction pointers, 3Rs, etc. The attached document*** gives examples of what these could look like.
• The FCGG Steering Committee has begun planning the creation of the toolkit on the Green Umbrella website. Our subgroup will continue to gather information for the toolkit.

• The Newsletter subgroup would like to collaborate with the other two Working Groups and be able to offer a monthly or a bi-monthly newsletter to provide updates about each working group is doing and inform about future plans and events. No one has taken a lead on starting this yet.

*Report on the Plastics EcoChallenge Event in July*

This report gives the quantitative impact that the FCGG-led team of 53 participants made by participating in the Plastic Free Ecochallenge throughout the month of July. Ecochallenge.org is a non-profit organization whose goal is educate people about sustainability, and to help them form more environmentally friendly habits, in a fun and mildly competitive environment. Organizations, or even groups of people form teams; and the teams compete against one another. Every time a person on a team completes a task that he signed up for, he gets points for himself and also for his team. In addition to the points, this website also indicates what specific environmental impact each person, and also the entire team, made. FCGG reached out to the faith communities in the Greater Cincinnati area and participated in the Plastic Free Ecochallenge throughout the month of July.

**Team Name: Cincinnati Area Faith Communities Go Green**

**Participants:** 53 (6521 total participants)

**Total team points:** 5554

**Team rank:** 39 out of 391 teams from 53 countries

**Pieces of litter picked up:** 224

**Plastic bottles not sent to the landfill:** 26

**Plastic containers not sent to the landfill:** 115

**Pieces of plastic cutlery not sent to the landfill:** 26

**Plastic straws not sent to the landfill:** 24

**Disposable cups not sent to the landfill:** 3

**Zero waste meals consumed:** 44

**Time spent learning:** 390 minutes

**Documentaries watched:** 2

**Conversations with people:** 7

**Advocacy actions:** 3

**Community events – hosted or attended:** 1
Even though it might seem like the impact on the environment is small, the biggest benefits are the good habits that people form when they do a certain task repeatedly for 3 to 4 weeks.

We plan to participate in future Ecochallenges as well, which are typically two to three each year on different themes, e.g., Drawdown Ecochallenge.


**Number of people who attended** this webinar ???? (our Working Group does not know as this info remains with GU)

**Lessons from June 29 webinar** (Reducing Single Use Plastic):
1. We need to find ways to reach out to a broader audience who are not already very knowledgeable and involved in environmental sustainability.
   - One strategy is to use the FCGG upcoming workshop on how to develop Green Teams.
   - Suggestion: Recruit members of active faith communities to reach out to congregations that are not yet involved by asking them to identify 2-3 people who could start a Green Team in their congregation.
2. Also use webinars that are already professionally available online.

***Lifestyle Changing Toolkit for Individual Households for Going Green***

**A. Energy Audits and Road Map**

- Get an Energy Audit
  - What to expect
  - The three levels
  - Resources: name and emails (ask GU for list and help)

- Develop Your Step by Step Road Map
- EPA Energy Star Steps
  - First steps – No cost actions
  - Second steps – low cost actions
  - Third steps – small investments using savings from above steps
B. Education & Action

- Sustainable Lifestyle Practices Resources:
  - Household Solid Waste Reduction (Recycle Reuse Repurpose) Eliminate plastic and forever chemicals
  - Food choices; waste reduction & composting, meatless meals, buy local sustainable (link to CORV brochure)
  - food insecurity solutions – gleaning, community gardens and orchards

C. Lower your personal carbon footprint

- Where are we today and how much do we need to reduce the C footprint
- Household Appliances, Electrical and electronic items
- Renewable Energy Options (Solar, geothermal, include list of energy companies that provide renewable energy)
- Transportation (Hybrid and electric cars, impact of air travel on carbon footprint)

Household Waste Reduction

- Practice the 6Rs (Refuse-Repair-Repurpose-Reduce-Reuse-Recycle)
- Encourage small local repair shops like shoe repair, tailor, small appliance repair, etc.
- Look for creative ways to reduce SUP use as much as possible.
- Use storage containers with lids instead of plastic wrap.
- Since larger packages use less packaging material per unit weight of the item, try to buy larger bottles and refill into smaller bottles. E.g., hand soap.
- Use naked bins, whenever possible, instead of lining them with plastic bags.
- Use reusable grocery bags.
- Minimize or eliminate using plastic produce bags. If possible, put the produce in your cart without any plastic bag, and transfer it directly into your reusable grocery bag.
- When you carry out food from a restaurant, make sure you tell them NOT to put plasticware, and any other items you do not need, like sauces.
- Keep Tupperware in your car when you go out to dine in a restaurant, in case there is leftover food to bring home.
- Keep a reusable coffee mug in the car.
- Invest in reusable cutlery, silverware, and glasses for small dinners and parties you may have in your home. You can buy good quality, inexpensive items like these in bulk in stores like IKEA. In the long run you will even save money, in addition to helping the environment.
Recycling
- Hamilton County Recycling Center website is an excellent resource for finding out which materials Rumpke accepts, and which are the other recycling facilities that accept those items that Rumpke does not. It is a user-friendly website, where you get information on all the alternative recycling facilities near your residence for those materials that Rumpke does not accept.
- It is important to know what Rumpke does NOT accept, since anything that is wrongly placed in the recycling bin can create issues for the recycler, since it is a contaminant. Instead of the recycling adage “When in doubt, throw it out,” I would change it to “When in doubt, find it out.”
- The non-profit Cincinnati Recycle & Reuse Hub, which was recently started by passionate volunteers in our area, accepts all plastics, as long as they are clean, dry, and separated by number. They accept many other items as well. Please check their website for more details on what they accept and also when they are open, since they are open for limited hours.

Food Waste Reduction
- Get more informed about what the different types of expiry dates, like “Best By,” and “Use by” truly mean.

Composting
- Food waste in the landfill produces methane, which, if not captured appropriately, is a much more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.
- Consider setting up a compost bin in your backyard.
- In Cincinnati, you can take your compostable waste to a composting facility for a small fee.

Food Choices
- Reduce/stop consumption of meat and chicken.
B. CARBON FOOTPRINT REDUCTION

ENERGY & WATER SAVING TIPS FOR HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES

(Focus of this document is on “what to do to go green.” The “why” part would be in the references, or could be elsewhere in a separate document.)

(This is an example of a template we can use to provide the information on each appliance and electrical/electronic item in a concise, easily-usable form.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appliance</th>
<th>Top Conservation Tips</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
<th>Energy Used/Load or Energy Consumption/Hour</th>
<th>Water Used/Load or Water Consumption/Hour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washer</td>
<td>Buy Energy Star certified washers only.</td>
<td>They use ~25% less energy and ~33% less water.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wash with cold water. Except for oily stains, dirty diapers, and if someone is sick.</td>
<td>Heating the water has one of the biggest environmental impacts in the entire laundry life cycle.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Use High Efficiency (HE) detergents with High Efficiency (HE) machines</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wash full loads when possible. With small loads use appropriate water setting.</td>
<td>Uses same amount of energy irrespective of load size.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Use high speed or extended spin cycle.</td>
<td>Removes more moisture and reduces drying time.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dryer</td>
<td>Hang dry clothes whenever possible.</td>
<td>Drying consumes a lot of energy.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Buy Energy Star clothes dryer.</td>
<td>Uses 20% less energy.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Use moisture sensor to automatically shut off the machine when clothes are dry.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Remove lint after each dryer load.</td>
<td>Higher drying efficiency.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Large Appliances

- Furnace
- A/C
- Water Heater
- Washing Machine
- Dryer
- Dishwasher
- Cooking Oven
- Fridge
- Freezer
- Dehumidifier

Electrical/Electronic Items

- Lighting
- Room Fan
- Exhaust Fan
- TV
- Gaming
- Computer
- Telephone

Lawn mowing

Diet
EDUCATION/ LIFESTYLES

RECYCLING TIPS
(From my experience talking with friends, it seems most people are not clear on what, where and how to recycle, especially those items that our local recycler (Rumpke) does not accept. Giving folks all the answers in one location would, in my opinion, be helpful.)
Chart format with pictures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Where to recycle in the Cincinnati area</th>
<th>How to recycle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum cans</td>
<td>Rumpke Recycling</td>
<td>Cans should be empty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum foil</td>
<td>Cohen 3R</td>
<td>Clean and dry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corks</td>
<td>Whole Foods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used batteries</td>
<td>Home Depot, ...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardboard</td>
<td>Rumpke Recycling</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cartons – milk, juice, etc.</td>
<td>Rumpke Recycling</td>
<td>Rinse. Caps on or not?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass – Bottles</td>
<td>Rumpke Recycling</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass – Incandescent light bulbs</td>
<td>Landfill</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass – LED light bulbs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass – CFL light bulbs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic bags</td>
<td>Grocery store like Kroger and Meijer</td>
<td>Should be clean and dry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic packaging</td>
<td>Grocery store like Kroger and Meijer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic medicine bottles - Non-prescription</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic medicine bottles - prescription</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic bottles like milk and juice bottles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic tubs – yogurt, butter, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal cans</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes - reusable</td>
<td>Goodwill Stores</td>
<td>Mark “Not for Reuse” on the bag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes – not reusable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Energy & Water Conservation Tips
- Doors and Windows
- Attic Insulation
- Roof
- Showers
- Plant trees
FACILITIES

By Ken Wright, Facilities Working Group Chair

• Developed a vision statement:
  ○ “Work with houses of worship and religious institutions in our Greater Cincinnati area to reduce their environmental impact by lowering their carbon footprint through implementation of actions described in a Facilities Toolkit.”

• Worked on group goals.

• Held Tool kit discussions and recommended use of existing tool kits by others:
  ○ Interfaith Power & Light - “Five Steps to Becoming a Cool Congregation”
  ○ EPA - EnergyStar Action Workbook for Congregations”

• And several denominational resources:
  ○ Catholic “Laudato Si’ Community Recognition”
  ○ Presbyterian Church USA “Earth Care Congregation Audit”
  ○ UCC “Green Church Inventory Evaluation and Action Plan”

• Compiled a short list of grants available to help fund facilities improvements.

• Discussed recognizing congregations that have already done good work.

• Planned and held a webinar June 7, 2021 titled: “Learn Ways to Lower your Facility’s Utility Bills” with industry speakers:
  ○ Andy Holzhauser (Donovan Energy)
  ○ Justin Kale (Energility)
  ○ Monica Niehaus (Melink Corporation)
  ○ Chris Jones (Bricker & Eckler)

• Invited several hundred houses of worship; 32 people registered, 22 of them were not previously affiliated with FCGG.
FACILITIES

• Sent emails to all attendees of the webinar and followed up all 5 responses.

• As a result:
  
  ◦ A church in Goshen attended and is now looking into changing bulbs to LED's.
  
  ◦ Conducted an on-site walk-through audit of First UCC. They have decreased the size of their parking lot and added green space in its place.
  
  ◦ At Deerfield UMC: two utility rooms that were open to the attic were air sealed; we performed an insulation audit of the attic space; and a proposal to air seal and insulate the attic over the office space was accepted; a lighting audit was performed by Donovan Energy.
  
  ◦ Anderson Hills UMC intends to perform an energy audit as a result of our webinar.

• Membership list grew from 6 to 11.
FCGG SURVEY REPORT FOR 2021
FCGG SURVEY REPORT

By Joanne Gerson, Steering Committee Chair

In the spring of 2021, Faith Communities Go Green sent a survey to the 150 members representing approximately 50 congregations. Thirty three people responded on behalf of their congregations.

They answered the following 6 questions:

1. Does your community recognize the connection between spirituality and environmental sustainability? Yes or No

2. What steps has your leadership taken to make your house of worship or facilities more sustainable?

3. Is your community providing educational resources on how to do any of the following:

4. Which of the following areas would your community like to learn more about?

5. Does your community engage in advocacy to impact environmental policy at the local or state level?

6. On a scale of 1 to 10 how would you rate your faith community’s commitment to sustainability? (1 indicating nothing at all and 10 indicating doing everything we can)
FCGG SURVEY REPORT

For questions 2, 3, and 4 the following boxes were available to check:

- Reduce carbon footprint
- Take specific steps that individuals and families can take to reduce home energy use
- Adopt a more plant-based diet
- Reduce food waste
- Composting
- Sustainable landscaping
- Recycling
- Use fair trade products
- Change to LED lighting
- Get an Energy Audit
- Install Solar Panels
- Install Geothermal energy
- Advocate for Environmentally Friendly Policies
- Other

For question number 5 the following options to check were:

- Letter-writing campaigns
- Canvassing for issues
- Calling representatives
- Workshops on pending legislation
- Other
The following graphs illustrate the results:

1. Does your community recognize the connection between spirituality and environmental sustainability?
   33 responses
   ![Bar Graph]
   - Yes: 31 (93.9%)
   - No: 3 (9.1%)

2. What steps has your leadership taken to make your house of worship or facilities more sustainable?
   33 responses
   ![Bar Graph]
   - Reduce carbon footprint: 16 (48.5%)
   - Reduce food waste: 14 (42.4%)
   - Composting: 12 (36.4%)
   - Sustainable landscaping: 12 (36.4%)
   - Recycling: 12 (36.4%)
   - Fair trade products: 12 (36.4%)
   - LED Lights: 26 (78.8%)
   - Energy Audit: 17 (51.5%)
   - Solar Panels: 4 (12.1%)
   - Geothermal Energy: 0 (0%)
   - Maintain a 3 acre woods behind: -1 (3%)
   - No paper products: -1 (3%)
   - Tree planting program: -1 (3%)
   - Host environmental program: -1 (3%)
   - Community-wide discussion: -1 (3%)
   - Arranging for a carbon footprint: -1 (3%)
   - Educational Programs. Worship: -1 (3%)
   - We do not have a house of worship: -1 (3%)
3. Is your community providing educational resources on how to do any of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduce carbon footprint</td>
<td>16 (48.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take specific steps that in…</td>
<td>15 (45.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt a more plant-based…</td>
<td>12 (36.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce food waste</td>
<td>14 (42.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composting</td>
<td>14 (42.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable landscaping</td>
<td>22 (66.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycling</td>
<td>10 (30.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use fair trade products</td>
<td>16 (48.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change to LED lighting</td>
<td>12 (36.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get an Energy Audit</td>
<td>9 (27.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install Solar Panels</td>
<td>13 (39.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install Geothermal energy</td>
<td>2 (6.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocate for Environment…</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We’ve done some of this…</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We are not providing educ…</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="https://www.bellarminecha%E2%80%A6">https://www.bellarminecha…</a></td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree planting and native pl…</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just flyers tine to time</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarterly articles, speaker…</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t believe it’s advocate…</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They will occasionally talk…</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Justice proj…</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No literature in parishioner…</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supports our Climate Cha…</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>did Zoom call on Single U…</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Which of the following areas would your community like to learn more about?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduce carbon footprint</td>
<td>21 (63.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce food waste</td>
<td>9 (27.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composting</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable landscaping</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycling</td>
<td>6 (18.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair trade products</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LED Lights</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Audit</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar Panels</td>
<td>14 (42.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geothermal Energy</td>
<td>12 (36.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy and Humidity Recov…</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>regenerative land care, zero…</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I think we know a fair amount…</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reduce the use of plastics</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Temple rents space fro…</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conserving rain water with r…</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All of above</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community solar in cooperat…</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>we distribute whatever we c…</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at this time</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Does your community engage in advocacy to impact environmental policy at the local or state level?
31 responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter-writing campaigns</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canvassing for issues</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calling representatives</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>35.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops on pending legislation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing at this time</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We have an FCNL lobby group</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow Mennonite creation campaign</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We formed a parish “Green team”</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We have not taken this project in-progress</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal awareness</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We work with the local government</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once we can resume in-persons</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sometimes highlight environmental</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Met with legislative aide</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not much</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They will occasionally talk about</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To better integrate the work</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulletin articles for education</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals do, no committee</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeking community partners</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We do not as a community</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. On a scale of 1 to 10 how would you rate your faith community’s commitment to sustainability? (1 indicating nothing at all and 10 indicating doing everything we can)
33 responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusion:

The results showed us that there is strong interest in including environmental actions in the houses of worship. We inquired if congregations would they be interested sending a representative to tell others how their congregation was able to incorporate more “green” practices. Eight people, representing different houses of worship, expressed interest. We learned from these people that they attribute their congregation’s success to having Green Teams (also labeled environmental committees or creation care teams) consisting of members of their congregations. As a result, a November webinar with these eight people is being designed to help other congregations start and maintain green teams within their houses of worship.
OBJECTIVES, GOALS, STRATEGIES AND MEASURES (OGSM) FOR 2021
OGSM FOR ADVOCACY

Objective:
Promote environmentally responsible public policy in the tristate area

Goals:
• Provide timely information to public about relevant policy proposals in public and private sector
• Promote fair legislative districts to better represent public environmental concerns
• Give our constituents hope that they can shape public policy for the better

Strategies:
• Communicate with trustworthy, knowledgeable non-partisan groups (like OEC, Buckeye Environmental Network) that monitor policy
• Develop a network of communicators who reach segments of our faith constituency
• Develop a way for our constituents to report when they hold a public education event and when they contact a policymaker
• Inform constituents of opportunities for public input, engage them in map-making to protect air and water quality
• Collect and share success stories of faith-based advocacy that improved environmental conditions

Measures:
• At least two groups are vetted by and approved by FCGG steering committee
• At least five contact persons in each judicatory by June 2022
• At least 15 FCGG constituents attending public hearings on redistricting; FCGG constituents draw at least one map
• Choose two policy priorities per year where we have a hope of improving matters
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Objective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduce risk of exacerbating climate of fear communities to build will to mobilize the moral voice and practice change in lives and society</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>July August</td>
<td>Focus of fear communities to build will to mobilize the moral voice and practice change in lives and society</td>
<td>Reduce risk of exacerbating climate of fear communities to build will to mobilize the moral voice and practice change in lives and society</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OGSM FOR LIFESTYLES/EDUCATION

Objective:
That the moral and spiritual importance of care for creation become an integral part of the educational and liturgical life of our faith communities.

Goal:
- To Create a Toolkit of resources that can be used to achieve our objectives.

Strategies:
- An inventory of care for creation materials currently in use by our faith communities here and elsewhere
- Webinars, Workshops, etc.
- Reader
- Movie/Discussion Sessions
- EcoChallenge
- Greening and Gleaning Projects
- Children’s educational programming
- Energy Use for Typical Household Activities
- Recycling and Reuse

Measures:
- Number of events
- Number of congregations and people who sign up and attend events
- Number of readers produced and distributed
- Amount of produce gleaned and secondary effects
- Amount of SUP not used
- Other qualitative measures of how people’s lives are changed
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education/Lifestyles</th>
<th>What we need to achieve</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fulfilment of personal goals</td>
<td>What actions will be taken to meet objectives</td>
<td>Gaining the support of our community</td>
<td>Community-focused initiatives to build the will to reduce the carbon footprint, community collaboration to integrate care, and education and awareness campaigns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The farm communities can then implement team-measured changes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OGSM FOR FACILITIES

Objective:
Houses of worship and religious institutions in our Greater Cincinnati area lower their carbon footprint thru reduced energy use.

Goals:
- % of member congregations reduce carbon footprint by 
- Distribute additional tools to guide and provide information to Houses of Worship facilities
- Compile materials and resources for Facilities Toolkit

Strategies:
- Educational events
- Toolkit
- 12 congregations conduct audits through affiliation with FCGG
- Have the facilities that conduct audits and or implement audit recommendations notify us of their progress.
- Create and make available a tool kit or guide that includes articles, grant funders, best practices and resources
- Learn from faith communities who have already achieved similar goals
- Green energy purchasing

Measures:
- Number of attendees at events
- Number of attendees that follow up with service providers
- Number of events hosted
- Number of media hits
- Number of congregations engaged
- Number of audits
- Number of facilities that implement audit
- Number of DIY improvements
CONCLUSION

At the core of every faith tradition is a reverence for creation. This is a belief that creation is sacred and thus should be honored and practiced within the tradition as foundational to their moral vision. In recent years more and more attention has been paid by all of the world’s faith traditions to what that moral responsibility entails and how faith traditions can play an important role in confronting the growing climate crisis. This is not only based on the recognition that the climate crisis is an existential threat, but that it is also a theological imperative.

After a summer of dispiriting climate news – hurricanes, wildfires, record heat and more – Green Umbrella’s Faith Communities Go Green is developing solutions and hope. We are focused on what people of faith and their congregations can do to respond to the climate crisis, and we are looking for new members to join us in this urgent work. Religious communities across the world see the care of creation as an imperative, and a way for different traditions to work together toward healing our shared home. Last year Green Umbrella, the regional sustainability alliance, created its Faith Communities Go Green Impact Team to equip spiritual communities with the tools to combat the climate crisis.

Our work, which is divided across three working groups focused on advocacy, education/lifestyles, and facilities, is united in the aim of preserving the health of the planet:

- Our work on lowering utility bills in religious facilities examined energy audits, renewable energy and financing to help congregations reduce both their climate footprint and their utility budgets.
- Our work on reducing plastic use included a webinar on ways to cut down on plastic packaging and single-use plastic and education on recycling, as well as participation in a worldwide eco-challenge.
- Our work on energy policy covered ways to advocate effectively for clean energy, with advice from policy experts and a review of current environmental policy.

As the climate crisis intensifies, there is no time to waste. And as people of faith, we are called to fulfill the mission of Faith Communities Go Green “to create a more sustainable and equitable future for all by mobilizing their moral voice to reduce the risk of catastrophic climate change.”

There is a unique power in creating a collaborative network of faith communities working on the climate crisis. That network can not only have impact in their communities but also the business community and government. It also can provide a path into minority communities that have previously not embraced or been embraced by the environmental movement.