

A square for care (of creation)

Earth Day is April 22, and Interfaith Power & Light encourages observance of a Faith Climate Action Week April 19-28, presenting excellent opportunities for people of faith to lift up what we should be doing all year: taking good care of God’s gift of creation.

Use the Brethren BINGO card below to set some goals for your congregation, or celebrate things that you already are doing for creation care. If you complete a line (horizontal, vertical, or diagonal) or—better yet—if you fill all the squares, take a picture of your card and send it with your congregation’s name to messenger@brethren.org.

B	I	N	G	O
Install a programable thermostat and make sure lights are turned off when not needed	Hold a church movie night using a film such as the award-winning <i>Kiss the Ground</i>	Create a pollinator garden, a bed of native plants, or a rainwater garden, and/or install a rain barrel	Install solar panels or subscribe to community solar or another source of renewable electricity	Offer municipal recycling bins and/or purchase TerraCycle boxes for hard-to-recycle items
Plant or offer a community garden space	Adopt a section of road or highway in your area to do regular clean-up	Have a craft time to create reusable shopping bags or gift wrap or other items out of recyclables	Offer a Christian education class or study group around care for creation themes	Measure your food waste after each church meal and try to reduce it to zero
Install a compost bin or subscribe your church to a composting service	Schedule a “green audit” of your church through Interfaith Power & Light		Shift to energy efficient heating and cooling equipment and/or install heat pump technology	Write to your government representatives sharing why creation care is important to your faith
Plan a worship service celebrating God’s creation and our care for it	Plant a tree (or two!) on your church property or at another location	Do a church trivia night with questions on climate and creation care	Reuse extra bulletins as scratch paper or as coloring sheets for kids	Hold a creative church carry-in meal with healthy and locally sourced food
Support the ministry of your local church camp and join nature activities there	Work to reduce single-use plastics in your church building	Encourage people to bring reusable coffee cups or water bottles for fellowship time	Have a “Walk or Bike to Church” Sunday and/or install a bicycle rack at church	Do children’s activities such as planting native seeds or a sorting recycling game

Helpful organizations and resources: Church of the Brethren Creation Care Network, Creation Justice Ministries, Interfaith Power & Light, New Community Project, Evangelical Climate Initiative, National Council of Churches, Science for the Church, Churches Together in England Season of Creation, Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology, Climate Reality Project, Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, Minnesota Stormwater Manual Environmental Education Toolkit for Congregations, Center for American Progress. **If your congregation has had success with creation care projects, let us know at messenger@brethren.org!**