

# Our green congregation

## ACTION AGENDA FOR GREEN CONGREGATIONS

The world faces enormous environmental and climate change challenges. It is easy to give up or leave the responsibility to everyone else. As churches we are called to be good custodians of God's creation, and followers of Jesus Christ. Therefore we must continuously work to improve our own practices for a sustainable development.

Join us! Think globally – act locally. This poster is a tool for local congregations who want to be part of the common work for a just and sustainable world.

### You can join in by:

- *Making a collective decision that you want to be a green congregation*
- *Choosing 25 actions that you want to commit to from those suggested on the poster (at least two from each topic)*
- *Registering at [www.greenchurch.no](http://www.greenchurch.no) as a green congregation and becoming part of the large network of green congregations all over the country*

As a thank you, and in recognition of your commitment, the congregation will receive a beautiful poster with the poem “The cry from a wounded planet”. Place it somewhere visible, as a witness to your decision and as inspiration in your work.

**Join the fight for our planet and all those who live on it!**

[www.greenchurch.no](http://www.greenchurch.no) \*

\* The web pages [www.greenchurch.no](http://www.greenchurch.no) are an ecumenical joint venture and part of the project Creation and sustainability: a decade for change in church and society. The project is a co-operation between the Christian Council of Norway, the Lutheran Church of Norway and Norwegian Church Aid.

### Services and liturgies:

- ☐ 1. We will celebrate Creation Time
- ☐ 2. We will hold at least one service per year focusing on environment, consumerism and justice
- ☐ 3. We will use the resource material “Green church” throughout the year
- ☐ 4. We will include environment, consumerism and justice perspectives in prayers, liturgies, sermons and speeches where it is suitable
- ☐ 5. We will hold an outdoor service at least once a year
- ☐ 6. We will collect money for an environmental organisation at least once a year

### Education, diakonia and information

- ☐ 7. We will appoint a contact person responsible for environmental and justice issues in the congregation who will be the link to relevant regional and national church networks
- ☐ 8. We will include environment, consumerism and justice issues in our teaching programs, in faith education and in children and youth work
- ☐ 9. We will hold seminars focusing on environment, consumerism and justice
- ☐ 10. We will include articles on environment, consumerism and justice in the congregation newsletter / magazine
- ☐ 11. We will participate in Norwegian Church Aid's Lenten campaign and appoint an NCA contact person in the congregation
- ☐ 12. We will mobilise support for Norwegian Church Aid and Changemaker political campaigns
- ☐ 13. We will build partnerships with a twinning congregation in the global South
- ☐ 14. We will recruit members to organizations that work on environment and justice issues

### In the local community

- ☐ 15. We will test the local shops for choice, visibility and prices on goods that are fair-trade, ecological and/or environmentally friendly
- ☐ 16. We will encourage our local municipality to become certified as a fair-trade municipality
- ☐ 17. We will encourage local industries, the municipality, church administrative bodies and other institutions to become certified as environmentally friendly
- ☐ 18. We will collect support for Norwegian Church Aid political campaigns in the local community
- ☐ 19. We will organise flea markets or trade days
- ☐ 20. We will work for a good system of collective transport and/or bicycle possibilities in our neighbourhoods
- ☐ 21. We will encourage our local members of parliament to act positively on issues of environment and justice

### Church purchasing

- ☐ 22. We will buy as little as possible
- ☐ 23. We will choose fair-trade products when these are available

- ☐ 24. We will choose environmentally friendly products when these are available
- ☐ 25. We will choose locally produced food products when these are available
- ☐ 26. We will choose ecologically grown food products when these are available
- ☐ 27. We will avoid the use of chemicals for cleaning and gardening
- ☐ 28. We will give preference to service suppliers who are licensed as environmentally friendly

### Energy

- ☐ 29. We will check the energy consumption and possible energy saving actions for the buildings of our congregation
- ☐ 30. We will use low energy light bulbs and turn off the light in rooms that are not in use
- ☐ 31. We will lower the temperature in buildings that are not in use
- ☐ 32. We will install heat pumps, solar panels or similar energy saving installations
- ☐ 33. We will turn off the computers when we leave the office at the end of the day
- ☐ 34. We will run the dish washing machine only when it is full
- ☐ 35. We will use bio-energy and green electricity as far as possible

### Transport

- ☐ 36. We will encourage the congregation members to walk, cycle or travel with public transport to the church /the meeting house
- ☐ 37. We will reduce the use of cars and air flights when on church business
- ☐ 38. We will avoid using cars for short trips in the neighbourhood
- ☐ 39. We will ensure there are good bicycle parking facilities next to the church / church buildings
- ☐ 40. We will invest in climate compensation schemes when we fly

### Waste management

- ☐ 41. We will avoid using dispensable products when serving coffee/tea/ food in church
- ☐ 42. We will encourage the congregation members to register not to receive junk mail
- ☐ 43. We will copy on both sides of the sheet
- ☐ 44. We will use a projector rather than paper where possible
- ☐ 45. We will buy second hand products and fix broken items rather than buying new, where possible
- ☐ 46. We will compost organic materials
- ☐ 47. We will recycle glass, metal and plastic waste
- ☐ 48. We will recycle electronic and other chemical waste at a garbage collection point
- ☐ 49. .... (define your own action)
- ☐ 50. .... (define your own action)