

Plymouth Congregational Church

Statement on Environmental Sustainability

As of June 2008, this statement has been endorsed by the Caring for Creation working group and the following Plymouth boards: Outreach, Deacons, Religious Education, Stewards, Member Care, Fine Arts, Membership and Trustees.



Vision

We are called to serve as stewards of the earth, to protect and nurture the environment, and to engage in sustainable practices that meet the needs of the present without compromising the lives of future generations. We envision a world in which all people share fairly in the earth's bounty and make reverence, gratitude, and care for the living earth central to their lives.



Principles

In response to this call, we adopt the following environmental sustainability principles to guide our decisions and our actions as a congregation.

Facilities and Operations To promote sustainable environmental practices throughout our church's operations, we will:

- Maintain the church grounds and buildings in an environmentally sensitive way
- Make efficient and environmentally responsible use of water, paper and other resources
- Reduce our reliance on fossil fuels via conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Develop a responsible food strategy for our operations
- Minimize waste and practice reuse and recycling where appropriate
- Practice environmentally responsible procurement of goods and services
- Apply green building practices to all new development and construction

Plymouth Community To encourage our members to develop sustainable lifestyles, we will:

- Apply the principles listed above at home and at work
- Promote responsible use of motorized vehicles and encourage our members to utilize alternative modes of transportation
- Provide educational opportunities and support to help our members and youth understand their impact on the environment and to develop "greener" lifestyles
- Incorporate environmental themes and activities in our worship services

Outreach and Advocacy To promote environmental sustainability in the wider community, we will:

- Collaborate with our neighborhood and community organizations on local environmental issues
- Facilitate multi-congregational environmental efforts
- Work to achieve environmental justice
- Practice non-partisan environmental advocacy
- Serve as a model of environmental sustainability



Invitation

In support of these principles, members of the Plymouth congregation, Boards of the Church, and Plymouth staff are invited to:

- Learn about the principles of environmental sustainability
- Think creatively about how to apply these principles in their own lives and in the collective life of the Church
- Support each other in our efforts to apply these principles