What have Pilgrims done?

Some Sustainability Actions at Pilgrim Lutheran, St. Paul, 2004-18

Skills Building Workshops and Information
- Make non-toxic household cleansers
- Sew reusable, cloth, holiday gift bags – 3X
- Begin backyard composting and vermicomposting
- Teach evening composting class
- Pack a no-waste lunch – display
- Reduce junk mail – display
- Exchange Plants/Seeds -- Sun am / fall-summer
- Sweater Sunday – and sweater swap
- Make Beeswax – Cling Wrap

Low- and No-Waste Church Events
- Music on the Blacktop Congregational Picnic
- Blessing of the Animal Blacktop Service and Picnic
- Earth Day Events 2006-09
- Lenten congregational soup lunches
- Easter brunch decorations
- Wednesday evening activities, meals

Films on Friday
- “Affluenza”
- “An Inconvenient Truth”
- “Renewal”
- “The Future of Food”
- “Kilowatt Ours”
- “Amazing Grace”
- TED Talks, Rob Hopkins and David Roberts
- “Forks Over Knives”
- “Before the Flood”
- “An Inconvenient Sequel” field trip
- “Global Waste: The Scandal of Food Waste”
- “Plastic Ocean”
- “The True Cost”
- “Earthbound” – over 6 weeks
- “Food Waste”

Created a Sunday School-sponsored Junk Mail Tree
Created a Recycled Materials Sculpture
Emilie Bouvier art display

Education and Forums
- Earth Day cross-generational activities – why we care for creation. Book reading, singing, seed planting.
- How-to Greening Tips – Audience Participation
- Share Zero-Waste Ideas
- Describe Net Zero Carbon Proposal at Pilgrim
- Socially Responsible Investing Proposal at Pilgrim
- Solve New York Times Quizzes (Drawdown, Consumer/Behavior Choices)
- Monthly Bulletin Board / Newsletter Tips
- Minimalism
- Fast Fashion
- Tree Selections – adapting to Climate Changes
- Sallie McFague – “Blessed are the Consumers: Climate change and the Practice of Restraint”

Speakers
- Julia Earl, Project HARM MN, effects of household chemicals
- Pilgrim PCC members led information-sharing and stories about consumerism
- Terry Gips, President of the Alliance for Sustainability, introduction to the Natural Step
- Sean Gosiewski, about Congregations Caring for Creation
- Andrea Erickson, St. Paul Paint the Pavement, Placemaking discussion
- Professor Charles Umbanhower, St, Olaf College, on current trends in campus greening
- Alycia Ashburn, Lutheran Coalition for Public Policy, on advocacy for the environment
- J Drake Hamilton, Fresh Energy
- Leslie Brandt, US Forest Service

Worship
- Earth Day Worships – organic communion wine, homemade bread, slimmed-down bulletin and creation-centric message
- Liturgies, by PCC member
- National “Preach-In” Sermon, by PCC member
Awareness of/to the Wider Community
Invited Mac-Groveland neighborhood to skills building activities and films
Staffed C3 booth at the State Fair—education on lighting
Contribute to Congregations Caring for Creation, now MN IPL
Contributed ideas to C3/Alliance for Sustainability/Hennepin County Congregational Toolkit
Began to use compostable utensils at Loaves and Fishes on Pilgrim Day
Adopted a section of the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis for a year
Provided support speakers for Neighborhood Sustainability Conference
Provided and arranged for support speakers for the St. Paul Area Synod’s Toolkit Event
Co-sponsored events related to Water for Peace Project, with Pilgrims for Just Peace

Advocacy
Peoples Climate March – DC & St. Paul
Rapid Response email / FB Pilgrim Salt and Light

Audits
Capitol Region Watershed District & Ramsey Conservation – Manage Runoff
EnerChange – Energy Efficiency
Biz Recycling
LED Lighting Assessment

Resource Efficiency / Building & Grounds
New 50-yr, recyclable Metal Roof with substantial additional insulation
New, high-efficiency hot water heater
Replaced 1941 pipe organ by refurbishing one from a church in Zeeland, MI.
Updated our Sanctuary with sustainability in mind: repurposed pew wood as new chairs
used new flooring wood from local growers approved by the Forest Stewardship Council
installed LED lighting

Internal Assessment/Actions
Began recycling program with Eureka Recycling (put out bins and signage)
Switched to 100% recycled paper for church office – then switched to less than that
Put two composting bins in the backyard of Pilgrim (started composting coffee grounds and scraps)
Initiated “you pick-‘em” weeding event on the church grounds
Reduced church lawn by planting perennials around the grounds
“Bike, Trike, Bus, Walk, Skip or Hop to Church” Sundays
ONGOING sales of organic, sustainable, fair trade coffee and chocolate products
Added books on environment, greening and simple living for Pilgrim library
Purchased organic wine for communion
Energy Smart CSA Drop site
Representative Pinto at evening event
Hamline UMC – co-applied for CERTS grant
Mac-Grove Fest – publicize PCC & sustainability
Attend MN IPL “Be the Spark”
Celebrate Green Line Grand Opening field trip
Church raingarden tour
SPIN event – Native American Components

Resolutions
Forwarded a resolution “Ecologically and Fiscally Sound” to the St. Paul Area Synod
Pilgrim Climate Investment – for church endowment realignment. Also went to ELCA and was approved.
Net-Zero Carbon Footprint for our church energy use – 3-years of energy efficiency actions before potentially purchasing carbon offsets.

Pledges / Commitments
Lutherans Restoring Creation Covenant (in process)
Climate Justice Congregational Certificate Program (in process)
Energize Saint Paul – Race to Reduce
MN Energy Challenge