

# 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 MNIPL  
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  
Donated funds to plant trees on the Greenway  
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 MNIPL “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