

**A Preliminary Proposal for the Development of a Comprehensive Creation Care Plan  
Submitted by the All Saints Green Team  
December, 2022**

*“The Pledge to Care for Creation is part of living as the Jesus Movement. It’s a promise to protect and renew this good Earth and all who call it home. It’s a promise to share our stories, stand with those who are most vulnerable, and live more gently on the Earth.”*

~ [The Episcopal Church Task Force on Creation Care](#)

*“As the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, we long to grow loving, liberating, life-giving relationship with the whole of God’s Creation. Together, we pledge to protect and renew the Earth and all who call it home. Together, we are living the Way of Love and make this commitment to specific actions”*

~ [from the Episcopal Church Creation Care Pledge](#)

## **Introduction**

A group of ten parishioners at All Saints has been in conversation over the past few months about ways in which our parish can adopt and implement The Episcopal Church’s Creation Care Pledge. We believe our congregation is ready to build upon previous and ongoing efforts to honor God in creation by taking steps to conduct ourselves more intentionally as an environmentally sustainable, creation-caring, and eco-justice-seeking community of faith. We believe that cultivating such a community requires a comprehensive, collaborative, integrated, and strategically planned approach to reaching this goal. We have identified and outlined four broad areas of action that remain to be more fully fleshed out and prioritized in conversation with the parish community and its leadership. These areas are *not* mutually exclusive and represent a holistic approach.

**Christian Formation.** This area focuses on why creation care is a concern of Christian faith, mission, and ministry and a priority of The Episcopal Church in particular. We see formation as foundational to the success of our efforts in the other three areas. Included in this area would be plans for the creation of opportunities throughout the year to engage in theological and spiritual reflection, liturgical celebration, education, and communication regarding care for creation and sustainable practices.

**Buildings, Grounds, and Energy.** This area focuses on economically and environmentally sustainable usage and maintenance of our facilities and properties, energy resources, as well as related product and supplies acquisition and usage.

**Waste Reduction.** This area focuses on reducing harmful and pollution-generating waste by finding ways to produce less of it, and by implementing recycling composting practices at All Saints.

**Advocacy.** This area aims to connect our congregational sustainability efforts to the wider context of care for our planet and its inhabitants. Issues to be addressed in this area, both internally and in collaboration with external local and global partners, would include plans to address social and economic issues related to food (insecurity, local sourcing); air, land, and water pollution; and environmental injustice.

We believe this effort will be a long term, ongoing, process that will require the collaboration, commitment, and work of our entire inter-generational community. Input and buy-in from the vestry, parish leadership and administrators; children and youth groups; various committees (e.g. buildings and grounds, social justice/United Power; liturgy); coffee-hour and other event organizers; and RCS will be necessary to the success of any plan. Parishioners who would be willing to lead and work in one or more of the four action areas will need to be enlisted.

However, our desire to accomplish an authentic culture shift in the longer term does not mean we cannot do something now!

**For these reasons, the Green Team would like to kickstart this initiative at the Annual Meeting in January 2023.** We would like to take advantage of the expected high attendance to talk about the Green Team and this plan-in-progress, and to invite input and participation. We would also like to begin *acting* on this plan *at the meeting* by beginning to implement more visibly and robustly what we believe to be the most do-able short term and continuing objective: waste reduction.

### **A Preliminary Action Plan**

The following outlines the specifics of our preliminary proposal developed by the “Green Team,” such as it is at this time, followed by a modest budget proposal for 2023-2024.

#### **I. Waste Reduction**

- 1. Rely primarily on reusable, washable tableware and cutlery instead of wasteful single use items.** This will require All Saints’ to manage a clean-up and dish crew for all events (a challenging but necessary shift in culture!)
- 2. Eliminate disposable plastic water bottles from all All Saints events and encourage parishioners to bring their own reusable water containers**
- 3. Become a member of a compost pick-up service:** When using reusable, washable tableware and cutlery is not possible, All Saints’ will use things that are fully compostable.

- a. All Saints' will purchase ONLY compostable tableware and cutlery for all events at the parish and will no longer ask (or permit) people to purchase their own supplies. Compostable items will be stored, managed and replenished by the staff (with signs and labels and everything necessary to make it simple for everyone).
  - b. All Saints' will partner with [WasteNot](#) compost service pick-up on a weekly or biweekly basis (1 5-gallon bucket) plus additional special pick-ups as needed for major events.
  - c. At major events, All Saints' will need a compost crew, which will help people put things in the appropriate containers.
4. **Create better signage and systems for trash, recycling and compost.** Currently, the recycling bins are small, hard to find and confusing. During events, there have not been designated bins or signs about what is recyclable and what is trash. All Saints' needs distinctive, appropriately size and labeled bins for trash and recycling in common areas (the parish hall and the reading room) and a distinct bucket for compost (stored in the kitchen with a lid). These bins should be easy to move outside and should be used at all All Saints' events.

## **II. Buildings, Grounds, and Energy**

- a) **Perform an Energy Audit.** In partnership with our Buildings and Grounds crew and Faith in Place, perform an energy audit to identify ways to make All Saints' more energy efficient (i.e. LED light bulbs, heat and air conditioning controls, windows, etc.).
- b) **Evaluate use of cleaning products and other paper goods (toilet paper etc.)**  
Purchase non-toxic, ethically sourced coffee, tea, cleaning products, toilet paper made with a high content of recycled fibers and other household items. Ideas include [Dr. Bronner's](#) and [Who Gives a Crap](#).
- c) **Evaluate lawn and landscaping practices.** In partnership with B&G, identify what is growing at All Saints' to see if there are ways to incorporate more native plants or other sustainable outdoor practices.

## **III. Advocacy**

- a) **Join networks and establish and develop partnerships** with current and new creation care and environmental justice groups and organizations in the church, diocese, local community, and beyond.
- b) **Encourage and engage the congregation to take part in advocacy initiatives**

#### **IV. Formation**

- a) **Offer education, inspiration and updates *via* the newsletter and other events.**  
Members of All Saints' will be invited to share reflections on sustainability and God's creation via the newsletter. The 'Green Corner' (we need a better name) will be a periodic contribution written by members of the Green Team with updates to our efforts, inspiration, personal stories and ideas for how to get involved.
- b) **Evaluate and/or develop curricula for intergenerational education and faith formation.**
- c) **Evaluate, incorporate, and create liturgical resources for honoring God in Creation and honoring the integrity of the earth its inhabitants.**

#### **Budget Projections for 2023-2024**

**Budget Projections:** This waste reduction effort will require a budget line for the compost service and an increase in the supplies budget in order to purchase fully compostable tableware and cutlery.

##### Trash/Recycling bin improvement

New cans/bins if needed (we will try to use what we have, of course and/or get items second hand). **Total estimated cost \$200**

##### Compostable Supplies

At the recommendation of Saint Matthews in Evanston, we would like to go with [BeGreenToday](#), a small family owned company located in Michigan. Below is a sample of what we might need:

10" plates (case of 800)  $\$146 \times 2 = \$292$

6" plates (case of 1000)  $\$65 \times 2 = \$130$

TPLA forks, knives, spoons (case of 1000)  $\$66$  each x 2 forks/spoons; 1 knife =  $\$198$

6 oz cold cups (case of 2000)  $\$165 \times 2 = \$330$

9 oz cold cups (case of 2000)  $\$234$

8 oz hot cups (case of 1000)  $\$104 \times 2 = \$208$

12 oz soup cup (case of 500)  $\$90 \times 2 = \$180$

Room for error/adjustments:  $\$500$

**Current Total Green Supplies: \$2072**

Waste Not Compost

Easy pick-up of 5 gallon bucket weekly. We just have to put it in a designated spot outside on a designated day. Weekly bucket pick-up could include general food waste from the week, as well as any compostable tableware from small events. The lid fits firmly on the bucket, and Allison has personal experience that it does not smell up the kitchen!

- Cost: \$12 per week + amount TBD for large scale event pick-up (if we do not have enough people to wash dishes) we would need a special pick-up for large events.

**Total Waste Not costs: \$625 per year weekly pick-up + TBD special pick-up =????**

**Total Waste Reduction Projected Cost: ?????**