

# Educational Opportunities on Caring for **Creation**

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# Education related to Care of Creation

Although the curricula in this presentation come from a Christian background and viewpoint, most can be adapted to fit educational opportunities for people of many different faiths. There are undoubtedly already curricula in existence for other communities of faith...

# Websites

- [www.webofcreation.org](http://www.webofcreation.org) (ELCA) (“season of creation” worship resources)
- [www.webofcreation.org/DenominationalStatements/catholic.htm](http://www.webofcreation.org/DenominationalStatements/catholic.htm) (Catholic social teaching)
- [www.pcusa.org/environment](http://www.pcusa.org/environment) (PCUSA)
- [www.earthministry.org](http://www.earthministry.org) (ecumenical)
- [www.hazon.org](http://www.hazon.org) (Jewish community)
- [www.discipleshomemissions.org/PublicWitness/Environment.htm](http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/PublicWitness/Environment.htm) (Disciples of Christ)
- [www.hopeandaction.org](http://www.hopeandaction.org) (United Methodist Church)
- [www.ucc.org/environmental-ministries](http://www.ucc.org/environmental-ministries) (United Church of Christ)
- [www.eco-justice.org/CurricReview.asp](http://www.eco-justice.org/CurricReview.asp) (curricula reviews)

# Books, Magazines

- *The Green Bible* (NRSV). HarperOne, 2008.
- *Earth Gospel: Guide to Prayer*, Sam Hamilton-Poore, Upper Room Books, 2008.
- *50 Ways to Help Save the Earth*, Rebecca Barnes-Davies, Westminster/John Knox, 2009.
- *Go Green, Save Green*, Nancy Sleeth. Tyndale House, 2009.
- “Is God Green?” *Hungryhearts*, Spring 2009 (journal of PCUSA Office of Theology and Worship).

# Curricula

- The Thoughtful Christian “Green Study Pack”
- “God’s Earth Our Home,” S. Bhagat, ed. National Council of Churches, 1994.
- Greening Congregations Handbook (earthministry.org)
- “Christians and the Environment,” Sojourners , 2007 (www.sojo.net).
- “For God So Loves the World: Peacemaking and the Care of God's Creation,” PCUSA Peacemaking, 1996.
- “Your Health and the Environment: A Christian Perspective,” S. Bhagat, ed. National Council of Churches, 1998.

# The Thoughtful Christian ([www.thethoughtfulchristian.com](http://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com))

## “Green Study Pack”

Six weeks of study:

- 1 – A Return to Recycling
- 2 – Air Pollution, Inside and Out
- 3 – Being Green in Daily Life
- 4 – Land Conservation and Renewal
- 5 – Making Your Home Green
- 6 – Water: Precious Gift and Endangered Resource

# The Thoughtful Christian

## “Green Study Pack”

### 1 – A Return to Recycling:

*Do your own research about local recycling efforts; how can people who live far away from recycling facilities still get their plastics, paper, etc. recycled? Is there a place to recycle compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) in your area?*

### 2 – Air Pollution, Inside and Out

*Check out [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov) to find out about air pollution in your area as well as the state’s Department of Environmental Management. You can find air quality index reports at [www.epa.gov/air/data/reports.html](http://www.epa.gov/air/data/reports.html).*

### 3 – Being Green in Daily Life

*This lesson includes a helpful “Step by Step to Responsible Living” checklist for participants to fill out.*

# The Thoughtful Christian

## “Green Study Pack”

### 4 – Land Conservation and Renewal

*Visit <http://epa.gov/brownfields/> to find out where in your area toxic lands are being cleaned up in order to be reused (rather than developing more of our precious “greenfields”). You can also search [epa.gov](http://epa.gov) for Superfund sites in your area (the federal program to clean up hazardous waste sites). The Nature Conservancy ([www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)) lists sites where special care is being taken to preserve land, water, fauna... It’s also not too hard to find lists of flora native to your area, which are likely to flourish in your climate without extra expenditure of water or special care.*

### 5 – Making Your Home Green

*Search the Internet and/or books such as *Go Green, Save Green* by Nancy Sleeth to find energy audit forms/quizzes for the home.*

### 6 – Water: Precious Gift and Endangered Resource

*[www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater) will help you find out about water conditions in your area. Also, check out your town’s “annual water quality report.” Find out more about your watersheds, such as the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River (ACF) Basin, shared among Alabama, Georgia, and Florida.*

# Be creative!

Poke around the Internet, your local bookstore (or faith bookstore), or your denominational or faith headquarter's materials. There are often resources – even old ones – which will keep you from reinventing the wheel...