

Support Greening Milwaukee and Addressing Climate Change

Help our Tree Sprout Leaves This Spring

Our Earth Justice Ministry (EJM) is asking you (and each of us) to help address climate change and improve Milwaukee by making a commitment to action for six weeks this spring. Starting on Earth Day Sunday (April 20) through Flower Communion (June 1), FUSM members and friends may make a commitment for a new action, large or small. The goal is to record people's commitments and recognize achievers at our last Sunday of the church year.

We will have a tree poster on the wall in the Common Room. You may peruse a list of potential actions to choose an activity, or create your own and place a leaf on the tree. Information about energy use and climate change will be displayed to help members and friends understand more about climate change. Potential individual actions are in the categories of:

- Transportation
- Home Energy Use
- Food & Eating
- Purchasing
- Political, Policy and Social Action

Many individual and systemic changes are necessary to mitigate or adapt to climate change and each action is a positive step. We ask you to be joyful and challenge yourself with the actions you choose. There are many things you could do to love our Earth home; for six weeks, commit to one!

Here is a list of possible actions the EJM team came up with:

Climate Actions

Transportation

1. Buy eco-friendly: Next time you need a new car, buy electric, hybrid, or plug-in hybrid – the one that gets the best mpg or e-mpg (see #9 below)
2. Rent a vehicle if you occasionally need a larger one
3. Combine trips so that you can do more than one thing in the same direction, when you do have to drive
4. Carpool to church at least one Sunday a month

5. Avoid air travel and choose getaways close to home
6. Use car-free transportation: walking, rolling, riding the bus and the Hop
7. Don't buy a higher-octane gas than your engine needs
8. Avoid engine idling

Home Energy Use & Around the Home

9. Install (or at least research the cost of) installing solar panels on your home
10. Install a smart thermostat in your home (and program it) to increase energy efficiency
11. Pick up the rake and skip the leaf blower
12. Always be vigilant about turning off lights and appliances when not in use
13. Take shorter showers
14. Grow native plants and trees in your garden
15. Turn your thermostat down in winter and up in summer
16. Choose appliances that are rated energy efficient
17. Turn off your computer or tablet when you're done with it for the day

Food/Eating

18. Eat meatless meals, at least one day a week. (Eat less meat, more legumes)
Increase to 2, 3 or more days a week
19. Support local and organic food options: visit farmers markets
20. Grow vegetables in your garden
21. Plan your menus, buy what you will use, and use what you buy
22. Sign up with Compost Crusader (262-394-6075) if you cannot manage your own compost pile

Purchasing

23. Eschew plastic products or packaging whenever possible
24. Buy bulk products and bring re-usable containers to put them in
25. Buy and use laundry products that do not contain plastic. (no plastic bottle, no plastic cover on a tablet, no plastic in a sheet, e.g. Blueland.com)
26. Buy and use eco-friendly packaging: Recycled & biodegradable materials, minimalist design, reusable, and eco-friendly inks and dyes
27. Wear sustainable clothing:
 - a. Materials: Organic cotton, hemp, bamboo, wool, linen
 - b. Dyes: Use low-impact or natural dyes
 - c. Waste: Minimize waste through responsible design and patternmaking
 - d. Longevity: Clothing built to last, not be design and pattern making
 - e. Labor Practices: Fair wages and safe working conditions

Paper Use

- 28. Print double sided, when printing is necessary
- 29. Leave no side white. Always use both sides of paper. Save old envelopes to write lists.

Political and Social Actions

- 30. Create community, start by re/connecting with a neighbor
- 31. Talk to people about climate change -- Talk about the climate crisis
- 32. Vote for supporters of climate action and help get out the vote.
- 33. Collaborate with other social justice organizations, e.g., anti-racism, immigrant rights, trans and queer support groups
- 34. Join the UU Ministry for Earth
- 35. Join and support national environmental organizations, e.g. National Resource Defense Council, Nature Conservancy, EarthJustice, World Wildlife Fund, Sierra Club, Drawdown, UU Service Committee, Climate Hawks Vote
- 36. Call (preferably) or write your state legislators asking them to invest in climate mitigating measures like public transportation and on-bill financing in the state budget
- 37. Ensure access to recycling bins

Events

- 38. Attend sustainably events, educations programs, rallies, etc.
- 39. Visit a park, either on your own or as part of Earth Justice Ministry's Walk and Roll
- 40. Attend Public Service Commission Hearings regarding fossil-fuel infrastructure
- 41. Join and attend meetings of local climate organizations, e.g. 350.org (Milwaukee or Wisconsin), Citizens Climate Lobby, student green clubs, Sierra Club

Reading

- 42. Subscribe to Bill McKibben's and/or Katherine Hayhoe's Substacks, and read each issue.
- 43. Read about and understand the water energy nexus
- 44. Check out the City of Milwaukee's Climate and Equity Plan (city.milwaukee.gov/City-Forms/ECO_ClimatePlan_OnePager.pdf)
- 45. Sign up for Our Future Milwaukee emails for updates and action alerts on local climate mitigating actions

Purchasing

46. Join a Buy Nothing group or Freecycle.
47. Swap one purchase from a large chain to a local store (e.g. from Home Depot to Bliffert's)
48. Put your money where your mouth is, i.e., make donations to groups whose values align with climate protection. (Other organizations listed herein + Our Children's Trust, GreenFaith, Grist, etc.)
49. Buy at resale stores or participate/organize stuff swaps
50. Support installing more solar panels on the church, especially while the direct-pay federal credits last
51. Eschew plastic products or packaging whenever possible
52. Choose metal or glass food or beverage containers to reduce single-use plastic
53. Eschew disposables: Carry reusable cutlery and food & beverage containers to reduce single-use plastic when eating out
54. Dine at Lake-Friendly businesses (see plasticfreemke.org)
55. Support local businesses, especially BIPOC ones

Transportation

56. Support car-free transportation, e.g. walking, biking, rolling, riding the bus & the Hop
57. Support Regional Transit Authorities