

## GreenFaith Assessment Rubric for Religious Institutions

Area of Institutional Life	Out of the Garden	In the Wilderness	Building a New Ark	Eden Restored
<b>1. Worship &amp; Spirituality</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Worship</b></li> <li>• <b>Sermons</b></li> <li>• <b>Spiritual practices</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No reference or derogatory references are made to the earth in prayers and/or sermons.</li> <li>• Plants/animals never integrated into worship services.</li> <li>• Members are discouraged from environment-based spiritual practices.</li> <li>• No worship services held outdoors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive, compassionate references to God's creation of the natural world in sermons and prayers on environmentally-oriented feast days or near Earth Day.</li> <li>• Eco-theology addresses nature in only one dimension – spiritual/ stewardship/ justice, but not further developed.</li> <li>• Recognition in sermons/teaching that people can seek/ encounter the divine in nature, without any explicit encouragement or techniques to do so.</li> <li>• Flowers integrated into worship space without regard to season, locality.</li> <li>• One worship service/year held wholly/partly outdoors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly positive, compassionate references to natural world in worship, sermons, teaching.</li> <li>• Eco-theological references address at least two dimensions of eco-theological concern (spirit, stewardship, justice)</li> <li>• Prayers offer thanks and call for repentance in relation to the earth.</li> <li>• Plants and animals welcomed into services at least once/year.</li> <li>• At least two services held outdoors each year.</li> <li>• Members encouraged to seek the spirit in nature and taught basic techniques.</li> <li>• At least one eco-service annually given 2<sup>nd</sup>-tier holy-day significance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several sermons/ year focus on eco-themes. Eco-examples figure in many other sermons.</li> <li>• Mature eco-theology includes references to spirit, stewardship, justice.</li> <li>• Outdoor worship each season; series of creation observances yearly.</li> <li>• Prayers weekly reference the earth and beyond-human forms of life.</li> <li>• Plants and animals – particularly local species - welcomed into worship at least four times/year.</li> <li>• Members taught eco-spiritual practices.</li> <li>• At least one service annually given 2<sup>nd</sup>-tier holy-day significance.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Religious Education</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Children</b></li> <li>• <b>Teens</b></li> <li>• <b>Adults</b></li> <li>• <b>Biblical</b></li> <li>• <b>Theological</b></li> <li>• <b>Ethical</b></li> <li>• <b>Personal experiences</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members taught that God found only through sacred texts</li> <li>• Teaching refers to natural world as fallen/sinful, not part of ultimate salvation/ paradise.</li> <li>• Members taught explicitly or by exclusion that religion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members in only one age group that the natural world is a revelatory gift.</li> <li>• Teaching does not refer to natural world as sinful/fallen; creation not discussed in relation to salvation/ paradise.</li> <li>• Teaching suggests that religion focuses on well-being of all creation.</li> </ul>	<p>Members in two age groups taught that natural world is a revelatory gift; at least one age group taught that humanity has responsibility for environmental care. At least three weeks of educational programming/yr for each of 2 age groups, addressing Biblical, ethical, theological</p>	<p>Adult, teenage, youth members taught that natural world is a revelatory gift; adults and teens taught that humanity has responsibility for environmental care. Education teaches eco-theology, Biblical, ethical and environment-based</p>

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	<p>focuses only on the divine-human relationship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No reference made to human responsibility for creation.</li> <li>• No opportunities for direct contact with natural world as part of education programming.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference made once-twice annually to human responsibility for creation .</li> <li>• Outdoors referenced</li> </ul>	<p>themes. Creation included within the openly acknowledged moral universe of the congregation, and included in the community that is ultimately saved/redeemed.</p>	<p>spiritual practices. Members of all ages given opportunities for direct contact with/ service to nature, with opportunities for reflection and prayer. Members encouraged to recall spiritual experiences in nature, to develop spiritual and moral maturity in relation to nature.</p>
<p><b>3. Fellowship and Social Life</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Food</b></li> <li>• <b>Cutlery/plates</b></li> <li>• <b>Training for home</b></li> </ul>	<p>No thought given to environmental impact of food consumption or fellowship-related supplies; cost is only consideration.</p>	<p>Food shifted to fruit/vegetables on at least 30% of congregational fellowship events; one event sourced locally/sustainably/fair trade.</p>	<p>Food for events sourced locally/sustainably/fair trade for at least 25% of the year; cutlery/plates/dishwasher replace disposables.</p>	<p>Food for events sourced locally/sustainably/fair trade; members encouraged 3x/year to reduce food footprint; all cutlery and plates washed in dish washer</p>
<p><b>4. Facility Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Energy conservation</b></li> <li>• <b>Renewable energy</b></li> <li>• <b>Water</b></li> <li>• <b>Waste</b></li> <li>• <b>Toxics</b></li> <li>• <b>Training for home</b></li> </ul>	<p>No effort made in any area.</p>	<p>Initial efforts made in energy conservation, though congregation remains dependent on outside organizations for follow-up and accountability.</p>	<p>Efforts made in at least two areas of facility management; reporting system organized for governing board. Governing board affirms “green facility management” as a goal.</p>	<p>Efforts made in all areas of facility management, supported by organizational policies and training. Members encouraged to implement these practices at home and are provided with training and tools to accomplish this.</p>
<p><b>5. Social Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Volunteer activities</b></li> <li>• <b>Financial giving</b></li> <li>• <b>Advocacy</b></li> </ul>	<p>No care for the earth expressed through social outreach and justice activities; programming supported that inadvertently or openly uses natural resources in unsustainable ways.</p>	<p>Care for the earth affirmed as a religious value; activity in one of the three areas of financial/volunteer/advocacy commitments. Activity linked to major feast day or Earth Day.</p>	<p>Care for the earth affirmed as a religious value; activity in two of the three areas of financial/volunteer/advocacy commitments. Advocacy commitment of some kind undertaken at least once annually.</p>	<p>Care for the earth affirmed as a value equal in importance to other moral priorities. Volunteer opportunities, financial commitments, advocacy commitments fostered and encouraged for all age groups. Regular outreach habits</p>

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				in relation to the earth – akin to monthly food donations – put into practice. Active partnerships with regional environmental groups and beyond. Congregation invests time/resources in struggles for concrete environmental improvements on behalf of at-risk communities.
<b>6. Financial Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Endowment/reserve fund management</b></li> <li>• <b>Modeling for members</b></li> </ul>	No care for earth expressed through financial management. Financial profit only consideration.	At least 30% of investment portfolio environmentally screened.	Environmentally-screened investment portfolio.	Environmentally-screened investment portfolio; actively votes shareholder proxies for the environment; encourages members to do the same.
<b>7. Influence on Members, Denomination, Community</b>	No effort made to influence behavior of members, denomination, and community.	Passive support given for “greening” initiatives in community/denomination and among members. Congregation does not initiate efforts to influence these areas.	Congregation initiates efforts to influence own members’ behavior and supports others’ initiatives to influence community/denomination.	Congregation initiates efforts to influence members, community, denomination and is known as a leader in each of these areas.