

## You Matter!

No matter your congregation's size or location or age or history, every faith community can take steps that move toward a healthier and more sustainable future.

Your congregation can inspire your local community to broader action. Your members can motivate people through their networks. There are plenty of things anybody can do just from a phone or laptop.

The Green Congregation Challenge can help you get started or move to the next level of engagement.



To view all four levels of the *Green Congregation Challenge*, visit

[www.sneucc.org/green-congregation-challenge](http://www.sneucc.org/green-congregation-challenge)

Visit us on social media and share our posts with your networks: Southern New England UCC Climate Justice on Facebook and on Instagram @SNEUCCClimateJustice.

For each Level completed, your congregation will receive a **Certificate of Achievement** for you to display and be recognized on the Environmental Ministries website and in our Environmental Ministries newsletter. At the completion of Level 4, you will also receive an **outdoor banner** to announce your achievement to your wider community!



### Need More Information?

Members of the Environmental Ministries Team are also available to resource your congregation!

Contact:

**The Rev. Emma Brewer-Wallin,**

**Minister of Economic and Environmental Justice**

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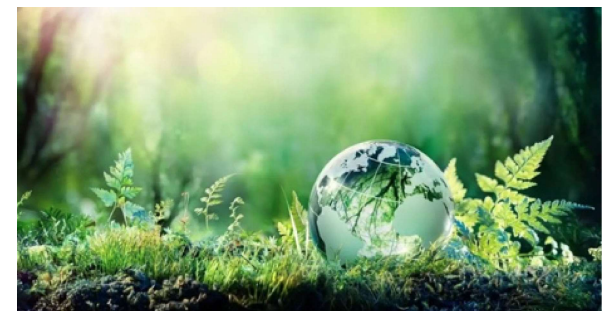
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**Program Support Associate**

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The Green Congregation Challenge is a step-by-step approach that helps churches take small, but consequential, actions toward protecting God's Creation. We believe we are at a tipping point in the climate crisis when the witness of people of faith is vital.



## What's the Big News?

The SNEUCC Environmental Ministries Team updated and expanded the Green Congregation Challenge, building on prior green programs from our historic conferences.

We solicited feedback from the 70 plus congregations who have been recognized for achieving Green Congregation status.

We expanded links to topics like advocacy, voting, environmental justice, intersectionality and civil disobedience. Among the resources, you will find curriculum for children and adults, opportunities for youth, and contact information.

## How Do You Join the Green Congregation Challenge?

Choose and complete at least **one step** from **each category** (*Educate, Organize, Connect and Advocate*) and at least **four steps** from *Reduce/Recycle/Rethink*, to reach a **total of 14** steps and receive recognition for completion of your Level.

Levels must be completed in order, but there is flexibility. You may have ideas that aren't listed, or you may want to adapt a step from another Level that matches the energy and interest of your congregation.

## How Does It Work?

The SNEUCC Green Congregation Challenge now offers about 25 action options for each of the four levels with ample resources to get you and your Green Team started.

We have mapped out options that allow your congregation to develop and implement goals that are tailored to your circumstances.



Level One focuses on actions that make it easy to **"Get Started."**

Level Two expands those successes to **"Create a Plan"** specific to the needs and strengths of your congregation.

Level Three inspires your congregation to **"Build Momentum"** for bigger goals and greater involvement.

Level Four helps your congregation **"Expand Impact"** to leverage changes needed to slow the climate crisis.



## Ready to take the challenge?

Check out our sign-up link to start with **Level One** or let us know you are moving on to the next level.

<https://sneucc-reg.brtapp.com/GreenCongregationChallenge>

Each Level of the Green Congregation Challenge includes recommended actions for the five categories and linked resources to support your implementation.

**If you are currently working on a Level or if your congregation has already qualified for Level 1, 2, or 3 in our prior challenge program, the Environmental Ministries Team can work with you to design how the Green Congregation Challenge can be adapted to support your circumstances and commitment to climate action and environmental justice.**