



## **Steps to Forming a Green Team**

### **Forming a Green Team**

1. Recruit at least 3 friends from your congregation who care about sustainability as an aspect of faith.
2. Have a meeting with your faith/pastoral leader(s) to get their endorsement and support.
3. Research your own faith tradition's or denomination's environmental stewardship commitments or faith statements on the environment.
4. Become an officially blessed and recognized group by the governing entity of the congregation (e.g. Board of Directors, Deacons, Faith Leaders, etc.).

### **Beginning Steps**

1. [Register your Green Team with GIPL](#). Consider taking part in GIPL's Green Team Coaching program and working alongside a Green Team coach for 12 months.
2. Schedule an initial meeting with your Green Team. Some things to accomplish in your first couple of meetings:
  - a. Craft a mission statement for your green team. If your faith tradition has a statement on creation care or sustainability as a faith practice, incorporate that into your mission statement.
  - b. Set a meeting schedule. It is recommended to meet once a month when getting started.
  - c. Brainstorm about what you hope to accomplish as a Green Team. Invite a GIPL staffer to help brainstorm and moderate this conversation. Work with the GIPL staffer to identify your primary interests as a group (carbon, plastics, waste, etc.) and ways you can get involved in these interest areas.
3. Schedule a [Drawdown GA](#) workshop for your Green Team and congregation.
  - a. Identify the high impact solutions that your congregation will begin to take action on.
  - b. Create a timeline of practical action goals, both short and long term, for addressing these solutions.
  - c. Create brief communications plan so as to include these initiatives in your congregation's communications tools (i.e., church newsletter, congregational website & social media)
  - d. Identify a Green Team member to register to join the Drawdown Georgia community on the Groopit app to record projects, progress, and impact.

4. Schedule a GIPL [Power Wise energy audit](#) and apply for an energy efficiency matching grant.
5. Plan one event in the first 4-6 months. This could be an [educational class](#), a documentary screening, establishing a community garden, etc. Ideally, this event should relate to the Drawdown Georgia solutions your congregation is focusing on and should provide an opportunity to learn more about the ways to reduce carbon emissions as a congregation.
6. Ask your faith/pastoral leaders to commit to including environmental sustainability & stewardship themes within the main worship service and/or religious education offerings on a regular basis. Schedule an Earth Day worship or prayer service to occur on or near April 22- Earth Day.
7. Schedule an [Environmental Justice 101](#) workshop with GIPL to learn how to advocate for the responsible and just stewardship of God's Creation as well as the just and equitable treatment of our neighbors.
8. Begin drafting a Sustainability Policy for your congregation's events and catering. (Obtain sample policies from GIPL)

### **Next Steps**

1. [Schedule a GIPL Water Wise audit](#) to learn how to implement water-efficient upgrades and practices.
2. Host an [Advocacy 101 workshop](#) and learn about GIPL's policy priorities at the federal, state, and local level. This workshop includes policy actions related to the Drawdown Georgia solutions, [Coal Ash](#), [Plant Vogtle](#), and [Offshore Drilling](#). Your voice is incredibly powerful! GIPL staff will also teach your congregation how to take political action and talk with your local and state officials about these issues. We'll provide training for scheduling and attending legislative meetings and/or organizing letter writing campaigns.
3. Schedule GIPL's [Four Directions Fund workshop](#) on "Active Hope." This makes you eligible to apply for \$300-\$500 seed grants for your Green Team activities.
4. Explore youth programming that can incorporate Creation care principles and sustainability practices.
5. Explore solar as an option to reduce operating costs and carbon emissions. Register for [GIPL's Solar Wise program](#) to receive a free solar assessment. To assist congregations in getting solar, we offer an interest-free loan of up to \$15,000 to be paid back in a 10 year period.