



## Caring for Creation: Earth Day, April 22

- Who** Green Teams, Mission Integration, Marketing/ Communications
- What** Communicate activity ideas for Earth Day; Create awareness of the Ascension Environmental Stewardship Program; Sponsor opportunity to join the local Green Team
- When** The week before or after April 22  
Plan 6-8 weeks in advance
- Where** Cafeteria or building lobby for booth  
Chapel for prayer service  
Community garden or facility grounds for community outreach

### Program Ideas

1. Distribute CHA reflection cards – free, order by April 1
  - a. Earth Day Reflection cards, 4" x 8"  
<https://www.chausa.org/store/products/product?id=3464>
  - b. Laudato Si' prayer cards, 5" x 7" (Pope Francis' encyclical, 2015)  
<https://www.chausa.org/store/products/product?id=3082>
2. Suggested activities for Green Teams:
  - a. Link with local Mission Integration and Marketing/ Communications to plan communications and activities
    - Integrate prayers to honor creation into planned liturgies, prayer services or broadcast prayers on public announcement system
  - b. Conduct a health and wellness fair at your facility
    - Set up a booth or table with Stericycle to share information on the facility's recycling and waste management practices. If requested in advance, Stericycle can provide promotional materials and give-away items.
    - Plan a healthy food promotion in the cafeteria with TouchPoint Food & Nutrition Services.
    - Request additional shredding totes from Shred-It/ Stericycle for one week so that associates can bring in personal items to be shredded. If requested in advance, this can be done at no charge. Alternatively, for a fee Shred-It can provide a shredding truck on site.
    - Post-it Note Activity: Set up an easel or provide a whiteboard in the cafeteria or building lobby. Provide post-it notes and pens. Ask associates and visitors to write ideas for green projects and activities on note cards and display on the easel. Collect ideas and submit to the Green Team to review and implement.
    - Highlight community recycling policy/locations, including electronics recycling, hazardous chemical and drug take-back days.
    - Sell or give away reusable drink containers. Consider providing a discount for coffee and fountain drinks when customers bring reusable containers.
    - Give away tree saplings or starter plants. In many states, these can be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Conservation or [www.ArborDay.org](http://www.ArborDay.org) at low or no cost.

The Ascension Environmental Stewardship Program provides a framework for the organization to act as stewards of God's creation and operate at our full potential by identifying and implementing practical solutions to minimize the organization's impact on the natural environment and the communities we serve.

We are providing ideas for your facility to celebrate Earth Day, which is a time to reflect on the importance of conserving our natural resources.

Ministries across Ascension find innovative ways to integrate care for the earth every day of the year.



- Advertise a local farmer’s market
- c. Clean up facility grounds; assist a local garden or park with a clean-up or planting activity

For assistance with your Earth Day events, contact Lois Sechrist, Ascension Environmental Stewardship Program Manager, [Lois.Sechrist@medxcelfm.com](mailto:Lois.Sechrist@medxcelfm.com), 314.733.8071

To learn more about the Environmental Stewardship Program, visit <https://ascension.org/about/community-impact/environmental-stewardship-program>

### Take the Go Green Pledge

Let us know what you will do at work and home to be a better steward of the environment.

To take the Pledge, individuals and communities commit themselves to:

- **PRAY** and reflect on the duty to care for God’s Creation and protect the poor and vulnerable.
- **ACT** to change our choices and behaviors to reduce the ways we contribute to climate change.
- **ADVOCATE** for Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact those who are poor and vulnerable.

What are three commitments you can make at home?

- Minimize single-use plastics: plastic bags, straws, stir sticks, cup lids, storage bags, disposable utensils, carryout containers, water & soda bottles
- Replace fluorescent and incandescent light bulbs with LEDs
- Purchase Energy Star rated appliances
- Participate in your community’s recycling program for cardboard, plastic, paper and metal
- Install water-efficient shower heads, faucet aerators and low-flush toilets
- Walk or ride a bicycle to work
- Carpool or use public transit
- Plant drought-tolerant and native species in your yard
- Use nontoxic cleaners
- Reduce your consumption of meat — go meatless on Mondays or Fridays
- Eat local, organic or chemical-free foods
- Purchase products from companies that are dedicated to environmental responsibility
- Other (list here) \_\_\_\_\_

What are two commitments you can make at work?

- Turn off lights after leaving a conference room or office
- Recycle paper, cardboard and/or plastic
- Re-use beverage containers instead of throwing a cup away every day
- Use dishes and silverware instead of single-use disposable food service items
- Bring your lunch in reusable storage containers
- Host green meetings using digital materials instead of paper copies
- Print two-sided
- Abstain from using Styrofoam products
- Don’t purchase bottled water for meetings
- Other (list here) \_\_\_\_\_