



CARING FOR CREATION SUSTAINABILITY PLEDGE

As a member of Bethel Lutheran Church, I pledge to make a concrete commitment to sustainable living by selecting three items below to incorporate into my daily life.

Promoting Clean Water:

- Use phosphate-free cleaning products; limit lawn fertilizers and pesticides
- Limit amount of salt used on icy walks or substitute sand or kitty litter
- Limit water usage with water conserving toilets and appliances
- Adjust water softener to the minimum salt level needed

Addressing the Recycling Crisis:

- Learn and follow the local recycling guidelines; recycle correctly and consistently
- Bring your own grocery shopping bags or ask for paper bags
- Avoid using plastic and buy products in glass bottles or cans
- Properly dispose of dangerous items such as batteries, electronics, pharmaceuticals

Making your Home more Energy Efficient:

- Change your lighting to LED bulbs; install Energy Star rated fixtures
- Always buy appliances with high efficiency to Energy Star level
- Apply smart temperature control: 78F in summer and 68F in winter; take advantage of fresh air cooling with window, ceiling, and whole-house fans
- Seal house air leaks; review home insulation for recommended R-factor coverage

Investing in Clean Energy:

- Install your own roof-mounted solar panel array or solar water heater
- Install solar-powered landscaping lights, water fountains and attic fans
- Invest in your local utility's shared solar program
- Advocate for renewable energy with utilities, regulators and legislatures

Maintaining Good Soil:

- Test your soil to determine what nutrients are needed and how much
- Create a compost pile of grass clippings, leaves and wasted salad trimmings
- Plant ground cover instead of grass and select native plants for your garden
- Maintain grass at a higher level, preventing weeds and establishing deeper roots