

Suggestions for Honoring God's Creation

COMMUNITY



All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.

ACTS 4:32, NIV

- **Get Involved.** Each year, AmeriCorps offers 75,000 opportunities for adults of all ages and backgrounds to serve local and national nonprofit groups through a network of partnerships. www.americorps.gov/
- **Group Up.** Initiate a creation care group in your community so that you can encourage one another, and work toward community-wide changes.
- **Share.** Start a share board at the town hall or at church—people can list what they need and what they have to lend.
- **Renewable Energy.** If you don't have access to clean energy options, petition the local utility.
- **Pedal.** If you need better public transportation or bike lanes, ask the town council. Start a bike share program by soliciting and repairing unused bikes and making them available for public use.
- **Party.** Host neighborhood gatherings in your backyard on a regular basis. Don't wait for someone else to initiate; if you plan it, they will come.
- **Plant Together.** Start a community garden.
- **Start a Tradition.** Find a central gathering place and start your own community tradition: a shared produce table in late summer, a canned goods drive at Thanksgiving, handmade Valentine cards to give out in nursing homes, or a year-round board for posting free items.
- **Recycle.** If your city or town doesn't have an official recycling program, take action to get one started. Talk to your local officials about asking Recycle Bank (www.recyclebank.com) to come to your town. This program rewards recycling efforts with points that can be redeemed at hundreds of local and national businesses. Help your community and get paid to recycle!
- **Work Together.** Organize neighborhood-wide improvements to streetscapes (street tree plantings, container plantings, small parks, parking lot screens, and median plantings). They can add more than 25 percent to the value of a nearby home.
- **Plant Trees.** Trees can increase a home's value as much as 10 percent. Each mature tree can add up to \$5,000 in value. For a \$200,000 house with several mature trees this could add \$20,000 of value.
- **Swap.** Ask the recycling center if they can set aside space for a permanent swap area.
- **Support Greenways.** Neighborhoods within one-quarter mile of a green corridor increase in value 20%.



Blessed Earth is an educational nonprofit inspiring faithful stewardship of all creation



www.BLESSEDEARTH.org