

# Practicing Eco-justice

*IMAGINE THAT...The congregation participates in mission activities that promote eco-justice within the local community and beyond.*

## What is eco-justice?

“Eco-Justice holds together commitments for ecological sustainability and human justice. It sees environmental issues and justice issues not as competing agendas, but as intertwined elements of how humans are called to relate to God's creation. It asserts that it is not possible to care for the earth without also caring for humanity, and that seeking human justice must involve care for the environment.” [—from the Ecojustice Ministries website](#)

**Don't forget to invite:** Your mission commission, people involved in para-church ministries, people most knowledgeable about local environmental and justice issues, pastor involved in community outreach.

**Step 1:** List all of the ways your congregation reaches out beyond its own members.

- Do any of these ways have an eco-justice angle? Is it recognized?
- How might attention to creation care or the local ecology enhance this ministry?

**Step 2:** Identify the most pressing environmental issues in your community. Who is negatively affected?

- How is your congregation involved in working toward solutions?
- If individuals are involved, have they received a prayer of blessing for their work or been invited to share stories?
- Are there situations your group feels called to work on?

**Step 3:** Rate your congregation's attention to eco-justice from zero to five. A zero indicates no awareness of any ecological injustice anywhere in the country. A five indicates you have multiple people actively involved with at least one problem.

## Examples of Practicing Ecojustice:

- A congregation shares its community garden with local residents in high-rise buildings who have no place to garden.
- A congregation advocates for a neighborhood adversely affected by a polluting industry.
- Members support local businesses with a green record and avoid businesses known for negative environmental impacts.
- Members of a congregation begin a Voluntary Gas Tax group for their community. The group spends its tax funds on local projects such as trees for poor neighborhoods.
- Fellowship times feature fair trade coffee.