



Generation Z Energy and Spirit Challenge

A friendly competition to...

Embrace our calling as earthkeepers.

Reduce carbon footprints.

Nurture environmental leadership.

Utilize and bless youth and young adults' gifts.

What is it?

Climate change, biodiversity loss, plastic pollution, chemical spills—now more than ever, all creation is groaning. But we are not powerless, and we are not alone. God loves to work with us and through us!

Between July 1 and April 15, 2024, respond to an environmental need in one of two categories: Energy or Spirit.



Energy

Reduce carbon emissions in your church building, members' homes or local community and estimate how much carbon these measures save.

EXAMPLES

- Help your church go solar.
- Use a carbon calculator to help you make a group lifestyle commitment.
- Volunteer with a local nonprofit that weatherizes low-income homes.
- Research an energy-saving measure that makes buildings more efficient. Share your ideas with people who could benefit.



Spirit

Not all problems involving people and planet fit in the energy category. Carbon calculators can't measure everything. If the Holy Spirit leads you elsewhere, go!

EXAMPLES

- Help clean up after a natural disaster.
- Create a pollinator garden.
- Visit a city or state representative to advocate for an earth-friendly policy you care about.

Stop by the MCCN booth for more ideas.



Who can participate?

Everybody can do something!

- Youth groups.
- Young adult groups.
- Mentor-mentee pairs.
- Other intergenerational combinations.



Deadlines

Register your interest by **October 15, 2023**

Submit a final report by **April 15, 2024**

Incentives

Group awards for outstanding work:

Two to four groups will receive funding for an outdoor experience related to their regional ecology. Examples include a camping trip in a national park, hiring an environmental educator for a guided hike, a church camp experience.

Higher education grants:

MCUSA colleges are eager to have students who care about the common good. Participants graduating from high school in the classes of 2024-2027 will receive a \$1000 grant toward attendance at any of the following institutions:

- Bethel University, Bethel, Kansas
- Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio
- Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia
- Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana
- Hesston College, Hesston, Kansas

Young adults: \$1000 toward tuition for an M.A. in environmental education at Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College, Wolf Lake, Indiana.

More information: mennocreationcare.org/schools



For more information go to:

mennocreationcare.org/energy-and-spirit-challenge