

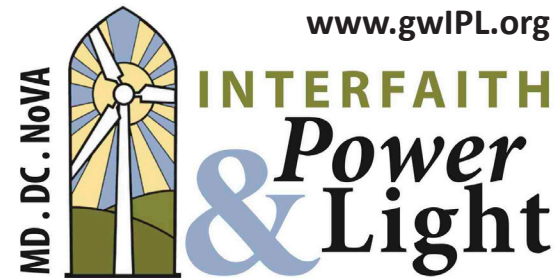
Because the world *can change a lot* in 40 days.

Lenten Carbon Fast 2014

Lent is a time to repent, reflect, sacrifice, and listen for God. This year, our church is joining with many others in taking on a Lenten Carbon “Fast.” May this season serve as a wake-up call to be mindful of the ways that our daily choices impact everyone, especially people living in poverty. Each of these actions will reduce our production of climate pollution and help to preserve God’s great gift of Creation.

Compiled from many sources by

www.gwIPL.org



Our religious response to climate change.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<p>“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you...so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” —Matthew 6:2-4</p> <p>Ash Wednesday reminds us to be faithful in action even when no one is paying attention. If we were all living in harmony with the rest of God’s Creation, especially when no one is looking, our households, our churches, and our society would also be transformed.</p> <p>Remove one light bulb from your home and live without its light for the next 40 days. This will decrease your energy use, and act as a reminder of your Lenten Carbon Fast.</p>				5	<p>6 Turn down your thermostat by at least one degree. Aim for 68 degrees during the day and 60 degrees at night. Program your thermostat if you can. Always turn the heat off when you leave home.</p>	<p>7 Go meat-free today. Christians have been eating less meat during Lent for generations. Choosing meat-free meals is a powerful choice you can make to reduce your carbon footprint. (VegDC.com)</p>	<p>8 Bring reusable bags with you to get groceries today, and leave them in your trunk for future trips.</p>
<p>9 Begin spring gardening by going organic. Grow your lawn and garden without toxic chemicals, and order a “Pesticide-Free” lawn sign! (PesticideFreeLawns.org) Don’t have a yard to garden? Borrow one: (3bl.me/t2dbt3).</p>	<p>10 Tell EPA you support carbon limits for new power plants: (1.usa.gov/lgf33x3).</p>	<p>11 Check windows and doors for drafts with a ribbon or feather. If it flutters, seal leaks (3bl.me/tgpdn6).</p> <p>To join with neighbors for professional home weatherization, contact Leap-VA.org or RetrofitBaltimore.org.</p>	<p>12 Be aware of how much food you discard this week. Look for opportunities to avoid wasting food by planning well, and eating leftovers. Join Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance’s Fast for Life (e-alliance.ch).</p>	<p>13 Talk with others at your church about ordering “eco palms” for Palm Sunday 4/13. These palms help improve workers’ living standards and protect forests in Mexico and Guatemala (EcoPalms.org).</p>	<p>14 Help your kitchen fridge function efficiently by placing jugs of water inside (water retains cold better than air), and by pulling the fridge out to scrub down the coils. Second fridge or freezer in the basement? Try to make do with one.</p>	<p>15 Make one of your journeys more environmentally friendly today. Could you combine two trips? Carpool rather than driving solo? (3bl.me/8aczn) Bike or walk, or take bus or transit, instead of driving.</p>	
<p>16 Run your washing machine only with full loads. Turn the knob on your washing machine to “cold/cold,” and leave it there. Washing your clothes in cold water gets them just as clean as washing in hot water, but uses half the energy.</p>	<p>17 Many caring Christians are working to protect Creation. Find a green organization today, and sign up for their e-newsletter: (CreationJustice.org, RestoringEden.org, BlessedEarth.org)</p>	<p>18 Turn off lights you’re not using. Shut off lights as you leave a room. You can put reminders on your switchplates (gwIPL.org), or install motion sensors (about \$20 each) that turn lights off automatically.</p>	<p>19 Save paper today: print double-sided, or wrap your next present in color comics, or a reusable gift bag. To reduce paper towel use in public restrooms, order “These Come From Trees” stickers: (3bl.me/ef2zhd)</p>	<p>20 Consider composting your food waste, returning nutrients to the soil. Learn about composters (3bl.me/fmf29e), or get table scraps picked up (CompostCab.com, FatWormCompost.com, VeteranCompost.com).</p>	<p>21 Celebrate Spring! Plant a native tree (CaseyTrees.org, BaltimoreOrchard.org), or support tree-planting in other countries (CO2covenant.org)</p>	<p>22 Planning to travel? Consider getting there without flying. If you have to fly, balance out the carbon impact by buying offsets. Fund a project that prevents one ton of greenhouse gases for each ton that your trip will cause. (3bl.me/std348)</p>	

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Rest your dryer. 23 Hang clothes to dry on a rack or clothesline (3bl.me/wmq35y). Many households spend more than \$100 a year on the energy used by their dryer, while the air can dry your clothes for free.	Many electronics draw power even when off. Today, 24 unplug your appliances that are off; place computers, radios, and TVs on a power strip, and turn it off between uses. Unplug your phone charger when it's not charging.	End junk mail 25 that wastes paper. Stop unwanted catalogs (CatalogChoice.org), credit card offers (1-888-5-OPTOUT), and other junk mail (DMAchoice.org). Or hire a service to cancel it for you (41pounds.org).	Tell MD's Public Service Commission 26 you're concerned about the huge LNG export facility proposed for Cove Point (tinyurl.com/covepointpsc). Deadline is April 2.	Join our webinar at 27 7:30 p.m. tonight and hear from local congregations about their efforts to make their congregation more energy efficient. Learn how you can too! (bit.ly/1cVfMf)	Minimize 28 disposables today. Bring a mug to get coffee. Use cloth napkins at a meal. Wipe up with a rag instead of paper towels. Stow a fork in your purse or briefcase for the next time you eat out during the work day.	29 At 8:30 p.m., join hundreds of millions of people around the world and switch off your lights for one hour to remind ourselves how much energy we use. (WorldWildlife.org/EarthHour)
The world's 30 poor are being hit hardest by climate change. Learn more about how a changing climate has caused a hunger crisis in the Sahel at OxfamAmerica.org > Stories & Videos	Speak out! 31 Join groups that are asking our leaders to take action on climate change today (350.org, ChesapeakeClimate.org, CitizensClimateLobby.org).	Are you recycling 1 everything you can? Refresh your memory today on what items your city or county allows for curbside recycling. Place an item that can be recycled, but that you usually don't recycle, into your bin.	Support clean energy 2 by buying "Renewable Energy Credits" (green-e.org). Live in DC or MD? Join with caring neighbors to collectively purchase clean energy through our buying group (gwipl.org/cpphomes).	Let your dishwasher breathe. 3 Run the dishwasher only with a full load, and skip the energy-intensive drying cycle by choosing the "air-dry" option; or just open the door overnight.	It's hard to open ourselves up to the reality of what is happening to our climate. Today, learn more 4 (350.org/Science, ClimateForChangeTheBook.com) & listen to our warming planet. (bit.ly/1gNpYSv)	Pick up at least one 5 piece of litter when you are out walking today, and dispose of it properly. Join the 26th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup (FergusonFoundation.org).
Have an " embrace the silence 6 " Sunday. Turn off everything, and unplug it if you can. Read Blessed Earth's resources on embracing Sabbath: "24/6" (bit.ly/TGGGofJ).	Purchase more mindfully 7 today. Print, cut out, and tape together a "Wallet Buddy" where your credit card can remind you of questions to ask yourself before buying: (bit.ly/1k44DET)	Own stock? Find out if shareholder resolutions have been filed to "green" the company's practices. (ProxyDemocracy.org) Stay informed and vote your proxy on behalf of greener business practices. (ICCR.org, 3bl.me/rk4fw5)	Help people on the "front lines" 9 of climate change. Carbon Covenant links US churches with carbon-reducing projects in developing countries: (CO2covenant.org). Others bring clean energy to villages: (NVRE.org)	Planning to make Easter baskets? Purchase Fair Trade chocolates 10 that don't involve child labor and supports farmer communities. (bit.ly/YHUX4).	Learn about mountain-top removal mining: 11 Appalachian mountains are blown apart, poisoning streams. (3bl.me/dzs4ve) How much of this coal is for your electricity? (iLoveMountains.org/myconnection)	Look to purchase locally-grown food 12 today. Plan to walk to a farmers' market this weekend, or consider joining a community-supported agriculture (CSA) group delivering local produce (LocalHarvest.org).
Think 13 today about the role of our church in its local environment. Could our community better care for Creation? Get involved with our green work, and get inspired by other "green souls" through Interfaith Power & Light (gwIPL.org).	Show reverence for life and for the Earth today by obeying the speed limit 14 when driving. Every 10 mph in speed reduces fuel economy by 4 mpg, and increases the risk of getting into an accident.	Place an insulating 15 cover over your hot water heater. You can find a "blanket" at most hardware stores. (If you have an electric water heater, it's an easy job to do yourself. If you have an oil or gas-powered heater, you may need a plumbing professional.)	Replace the incandescent light bulbs 16 in your house, even if they haven't burned out yet, with CFLs. Replacing one incandescent light bulb with a CFL saves 150 lbs of carbon dioxide a year. Don't forget to save one CFL for Maundy Thursday. (ShopIPL.org)	Maundy Thursday 17 Replace the bulb you removed on Ash Wednesday with an energy-saving CFL bulb. Learn more about how your electricity is generated with the online PowerProfiler. (3bl.me/5wx8cs)	Good Friday 18 "At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The Earth shook, and the rocks were split." —Matthew 27:51	Holy Saturday 19 It can be difficult to contemplate our own end. Think today about greening your "final arrangements," when the time comes. One option is to help protect natural lands: (3bl.me/w5a9vw)

20 Easter "Jesus' appearance **changed the world**. His disciples were being asked: speak truth to power, love your enemies, but most of all love God and your neighbor. This was a new way of being in relationship. Today's seemingly 'impossible appearance' is that humans are changing the climate. This calls for a new way of being in the world, to relate differently to each other and to nature. There are great glimmers of hope on the horizon."

—The Rev. Canon Sally G. Bingham, president and founder, Interfaith Power & Light



Take some time today to reflect on all of the activities that you have performed during Lent, and how they have brought you into greater harmony with the Earth and with all life. Conclude your Carbon Fast by making a personal pledge to serve God and serve others by pursuing a more sustainable way of life.