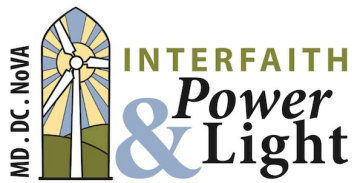


# Greening Your Grounds

Thursday, May 22, 2014 at 7:30 PM



Hosted by Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)  
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## Presenter Resources

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**Bonnie Sorak, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake –**  
Bonnie@interfaithchesapeake.org



1. [Free Tree Planting Program](#) – Available in MD, VA, and DC; Trees heal the Earth, restore balance, and alleviate runoff problems!
2. Background Information on Stormwater and its Impacts
  - a. [Basic information](#) to help you frame this issue within the faith context and has county-specific resources for Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Howard County, Baltimore County/City, Anne Arundel County, and other counties across the state of Maryland
  - b. [Chesapeake Stormwater Network](#) – technical bulletins
  - c. [Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay](#) on reducing your stormwater
  - d. [Chesapeake Bay Program](#) on stormwater runoff
  - e. [Environmental Protection Agency](#) on polluted runoff, nonpoint source pollution
    - i. [A Citizen's Guide to Understanding Stormwater](#)
  - f. [Maryland Department of Environment](#) on stormwater management and the Chesapeake Bay
  - g. [District Department of the Environment](#) on stormwater management
  - h. [Virginia Department of Environmental Quality](#) on stormwater management
  - i. Contact your local municipality or county office to find out if there are stormwater management programs in your jurisdiction
3. Building Green Infrastructure on your Grounds – How do we get started?
  - a. Build consensus within your congregation – IPC can help you with conversations with your vestry/leadership and [local watershed groups](#) will also help with this conversation
  - b. Assess your stormwater impact and opportunities for improvement with help from watershed groups, through a water audit (IPC can help find resources), your local municipality, or you may have a LEED engineer or watershed professional in your congregation who works in this field.
  - c. Construction and grant funding – [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#) watershed-wide grant support, contact [Jodi@interfaithchesapeake.org](mailto:Jodi@interfaithchesapeake.org) or your local watershed group for state or region-specific grant-funding ideas, contact your municipality/county about construction support and funding, or already established programs for congregations offering technical and grant-writing support.
    - i. Baltimore area – [Blue Water Congregations](#) – Bonnie Sorak, [bonnie@interfaithchesapeake.org](mailto:bonnie@interfaithchesapeake.org)/443-799-0349
    - ii. Anne Arundel County – RiverWise Congregations; new program, email [Jodi@interfaithchesapeake.org](mailto:Jodi@interfaithchesapeake.org)
    - iii. Throughout Maryland – partner with a [Maryland Sea Grant](#) technical consultant

## **Naomi Edelson, National Wildlife Federation**

1. Sacred Grounds pilot program, an extension of Certified Wildlife Habitat program – To learn how to create [a certified wildlife habitat](#) at your house of worship, go to [www.nwf.org/nwfgarden](http://www.nwf.org/nwfgarden) or email Naomi, [edelsonn@nwf.org](mailto:edelsonn@nwf.org).

## **Kellie Vaughan-James, Ark Church**

1. [Real Food Farm](#) – Works toward a just and sustainable food system by improving neighborhood access to healthy food, providing experience-based education, and developing an economically viable, environmentally responsible local agriculture sector.
2. [Baltimore Food and Faith Project](#) – Includes toolkits, guides, and ideas for your congregation, such as Faith Community Gardens, Action Ideas for Congregations, Guide to Composting, etc.

## **Additional Resources**

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### **Food**

1. [Cool Harvest](#) – National Interfaith Power and Light’s food, faith, and climate program with kit including “Sow a Cool Harvest Guide” and “Enjoy a Cool Harvest” guide.
2. [Montgomery Victory Gardens](#) – Includes resources for Home and Community Food Growing.
3. [Dirt Wise: A Gardening Guide for Congregations](#) – Georgia Interfaith Power & Light’s garden curriculum designed to help your congregation start a garden while you learn about sustainable food. It is our hope that more and more communities of faith will see the dirty, hands-on work of garden cultivation as a powerful form of faithful witness.

### **Water**

1. [Mount Vernon Unitarian Church \(MVUC\)](#) – As a part of the Unitarian Universalist Green Sanctuary Certification process, MVUC partnered with Fairfax County and underwent a watershed improvement project. You can read more about the project in our [MVUC’s Green Congregation Spotlight](#) on our website.

### **Wildlife and Grounds**

1. IPL-DMV’s Speakers’ Bureau includes many speakers who are available to speak on greening your grounds: [MJ Crom](#) on gardening, [Peter Ensign](#) on rain gardens and green roofs, [Barry Chenkin](#) on rain barrels, and [Darriel Harris](#) on our food system and food choices
2. Pollinator Partnership – Learn how to help pollinators through various faith traditions including [Christianity](#), [Buddhism](#), [Islam](#), and [Judaism](#).
3. Unity of Fairfax Church – [Check out photos](#) of many of the grounds projects undertaken at Unity of Fairfax Church in Oakton, VA
4. [Beyond Pesticides](#) – Learn how to maintain your congregation’s landscapes and lawns without harming your children, community, or local ecosystems.