Greening Your Grounds
Thursday, May 22, 2014 at 7:30 PM

Hosted by Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)
www.gwipl.org
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Presenter Resources

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 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/443-799-0349
      ii. Anne Arundel County – RiverWise Congregations; new program, email 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 or email Naomi, 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

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.
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.