

Eco-Friendly Products



As we look to the future and plan for post-COVID 19 events and services, we hope you are thinking green. We've recreated worship, learning and service. Now let's recreate our use of cleaning and office supplies and paper products. Yes, they cost a little more, but the cost is worth our Care of Creation?

One social ministry provider in our synod took the plunge to purchase greenware for their expanded free take-out community meals. A congregational member received a Thrivent Action Team grant to try eco-friendly green ware and the products were deemed just as good as products used previously. The cost difference is approximately \$50 for 300 meals. That's only 17 cents per meal! They are being conscientious about the impact take-out containers have on the environment and are setting an example for the community.

So how do you start? Google eco-friendly take-out containers or office/cleaning/paper products. Ask the company you currently purchase these products from what eco-friendly products they have available. Compare their price to other sources of the same product. There are lots of suppliers. Sam's Club and Costco carry a few items, but mostly online only. Green Paper Products, Fabri-Kal, Earth Choice Packaging, Staples, Janitor Supply, Quill and Webstraunt offer these products. Then compare the price and quality of just 1 or 2 products that you use regularly, i.e. toilet paper, paper towels, copy paper, trash bags or take out containers. Choose the provider that best meets your needs.

Here's an example:

100% recycled copy paper 8 1/2 X 11 case of 10 reams	
Staples	\$ 99.19
Webstraunt	\$ 58.49
Costco	\$ 59.99
Amazon	\$ 50.33
Amazon NOT 100% recycled	\$ 41.98



Will it be more expensive to purchase eco-friendly products? YES! Is it worth the expense? YES, it's worth it to be environmentally friendly and Care for Creation! Are there resources available to help? Yes, just look and ask your congregation for their support. We believe the financial resources will be there.



Also consider eco-friendly solutions to bigger projects like new construction, repairs, roofs replacements and parking lots. Go to <https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/stewarding-your-property-as-an-earth-community/> for more information. There is financial assistance for these larger projects from the Mission Investment Fund Green Building resources at <https://www.mif.elca.org/building-green-d-clr-dcdde1-515153?rq=green%20building>. Google "church green or sustainable project grants" for more resources.

If you would like to be on the **NWPA SYNOD's Green Team's** email list or would like more information about the Green Team, contact Dennis Groce (d_mgroce@labs.net) with your name and email address.

Martin Luther, "God is wholly present in all creation, in every corner, behind you and before you." (LW 51:43)