

**National Capital Presbytery
Common Grant Part II**

Name of grant: Earth Care “Power to Change”

Purpose of the grant:

The PCUSA calls congregations to care for God’s creation and to aspire to live carbon neutral lives. The grant provides matching funds up to \$2,000 per congregation for actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve water at churches or educate and advocate to further such actions. Appropriate projects: energy audit of the church building, improve building insulation, install energy saving sensors, LED lights, alternative energy systems, educational Earth Care programs, advocacy of earth care issues in the public arena, projects that preserve and sustain native species and biodiversity, promote sustainable watershed protection.

Grant criteria:

- *This is a matching grant for congregations of the National Capital Presbytery. The congregation must commit to providing matching funds equal to or greater than the amount of the grant request.*
- *The maximum Power to Change grant awarded to a single congregation in one year will be \$2,000; to be used within one year of receipt of funds.*
- *The grant project shall have an educational component that may include examples of how their project/actions can be applied in homes of members and/or in other congregations and/or the community.*
- *A presentation will be required in the year following the award to report the experience in an open forum with NCP Earth Care Network. The report should outline how the funds were spent, intended and attained measurable outcomes, impact on the community, and lessons learned.*
- *Significant changes to approved project plans must be obtained in advance of work. If funds cannot be spent as intended they must be returned within 12 months.*
- *A congregation may submit only one application each year.*
- *Grants for reimbursement of prior expenses will not be considered.*

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The NCP Earth Care Network will prioritize proposals based on the following:

- *Readiness—Projects that are ready to be launched will be given a higher priority than those whose launch date is further into the future.*
- *Prior Power to Change Grants Recipients—Applicants who are first time applicants to this grant will be given priority over those who have been granted a Power to Change grant(s) in the past.*
- *Impact—Applicants whose projects are more impactful in terms like the amount of CO2 they eliminate, or numbers of people educated, or natural species helped, or policy decisions effectively advocated will receive priority consideration.*

All grant applicants will describe the following: *(Text in italics is offered as an example. Please write your own response in place of the italics.)*

Name of Church:

Name of grant: Earth Care “Power to Change”

A. Please tell us about your project.

1. What do you want to do with the grant monies?

Example of projects include: conduct an energy audit, replace current lighting with LEDs, replace HVAC system with a new Energy Star system, install solar panels or switch to another renewable energy source, upgrade to Energy Star appliances, conservation landscaping, bike rack, public speaker, advocacy efforts. Please be as specific as possible: How many LED lights will be replaced? What specific Energy Star appliance will be installed? How many solar panels will be added

2. How much will this project cost? How will you match Power to Change funds?
Please attach an itemized project budget, including all expenses and sources of funding. To meet the matching funds requirement, volunteer hours may be included. To calculate the monetary value of volunteer hours, contact mmcnamara@thepresbytery.org
3. When will you begin this project? When do you anticipate completion?
Please list the steps you will take to complete this project. Projects should be completed within 2 years of receiving funds. If project is part of an effort that spans multiple years, what progress made to date? (ex. Monarch Waystation, Vacation Bible School)

B. Tell us how this project supports Earth Care stewardship.

4. How will this project further the goals of Power to Change?
For example will this project reduce CO2 emission, support alternative energy business and/or increase awareness of energy conservation measures within your church and community?
5. How does this project fit into your church's long-term Earth Care program?
How many active members serve on your Earth Care committee? Is your church a certified Earth Care Congregation? How many years? If not, what steps is your congregation taking to move toward certification? What strategies has your church selected to educate your community on taking similar actions?
6. What tangible change will result from this project? (State any verifiable measures like energy reduction or people served.)
Example 1: calculations of the amount of anticipated CO2 reduction in kilowatt hours or therms. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides a Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator on their website to help in calculating CO2 reductions: <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>. Example 2: rain diverted from runoff in watershed protection

Each grant recipient is required to submit a brief one page written report on how funds were spent, achievements made.

FINAL REPORT FORMAT

1. Church Name:
2. Certified PCUSA Earth Care Congregation Yes? No?
3. Project description: *Two to three sentences that describe the nature of the project and why it was undertaken.*
4. Project achievements: *List out specific achievements. Be as quantitative as possible. Example: Replaced 20 incandescent bulbs with LEDs*
5. CO2 reduction achieved or other quantifiable measure:
6. Method of calculation used:
7. Lessons learned: *What did your church learn during the course of this project? Did the project go as planned? Why or why not? What obstacles did you encounter? What would you do differently if you had the chance? What advice can you give the Power to Change group to improve this grant process?*