

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 any of the following actions:

- *reduce greenhouse gas emissions,*
- *conserve water and manage stormwater at churches,*
- *educate their congregation or community,*
- *support individuals or communities impacted by climate change,*
- *convert or establish gardens and grounds into sanctuaries for native species, or*
- *advocate to further any of the above actions before policy makers.*

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 two years of the receipt of funds.*
- *The grant project shall have an educational component that may include examples of how the project/actions can be applied in homes of members and/or in other congregations and/or the community.*
- *In the year following the grant award the NCP Earth Care Network requires the awardee to report their experience in an open forum. 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 may 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 of the amount of CO2 they eliminate, or numbers of people educated, or natural species helped, or policy decisions effectively advocated, will receive priority consideration.*

The NCP Earth Care Network asks grant applicants to describe their project using the following framework: *(The 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. How do you plan to use the grant funds?

Examples of appropriate projects include: conducting an energy audit, replacing current lighting with LEDs, replacing HVAC system with a new Energy Star system, installing solar panels or switching to another renewable energy source, upgrading to Energy Star appliances, undertaking conservation landscaping, bike rack, public speaker, advocacy efforts, or supporting communities impacted by climate change. 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. For purposes of this grant, assume that a volunteer hour is worth \$20/hour.

3. When will you begin this project? When do you anticipate its completion?

Please list the steps you will take to complete this project. Projects should be completed within 2 years of receiving funds. If the project is part of an effort that spans multiple years, what will the funds be used for in the year of the proposed grant?

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

1. How will this project further the goals of Power to Change?

For example, will this project reduce CO2 emission, support alternative energy business, support communities that are adversely impacted by climate change, promote native plants and animals, manage water, increase awareness of energy conservation measures within your church and community, or advocate to further any of the above such actions before policy makers?

2. 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? If so, for how many years? If not, what steps is your congregation taking to move toward certification? What strategies has your church undertaken to educate your community on taking similar actions?

3. What tangible change will result from this project? (State any verifiable measures like energy reduction, people served, plantings done, or advocacy efforts.)

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.

When the project is completed, each grant recipient is required to submit a brief one-page written report on how funds were spent and accomplishments realized.

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*
 - If the project was designed to reduce CO2 emissions, then how much of a reduction was achieved? Method of calculation used.
 - If the goal of the project was to address a different area covered by the Power to Change program, like water management, native plants, educational programs, advocacy, or

supporting communities impacted by climate change, did you achieve the results you had anticipated?

5. Lessons learned: *What did your church learn during 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?*