

Holding Greener Meetings

"...God's work in creation is too wonderful, too ancient, too beautiful, too good to be desecrated...Restoring creation is God's own work in our time, in which God comes both to judge and to restore..." —[PC\(USA\) Environmental Policy](#)

Purpose: When the National Capital Presbytery and its member churches hold meetings, good earth care practices should be maintained. The following activities can help us to become a better earth care stewards.

Food

- Serve fairly traded coffee, tea, and *sugar packets* (all available at wholesale prices to faith-based institutions from Equal Exchange).
- If meals are purchased, they should come from vendors who covenant to reduce packaging and who use recycled and recyclable containers and sustainable ingredients.
- Consider using re-usable, washable coffee mugs, dinner plates, cold cups, forks, etc. A great brand of lightweight re-usables is called Preserve Products.
- If reusable dishware is adopted, a system for cleaning up after meetings must be in place.
- Use cloth napkins. Second-hand napkins can be purchased to be recycled for this use. Develop a process for getting volunteers to wash the napkins.
- Go vegetarian.
- Serve tap water in pitchers; do not serve bottled water, or other bottled beverages.
- Compost food waste in partnership with a NCP member church that composts.

Meeting Materials

- Go paperless to the greatest extent possible. Reduce the numbers of paper handouts to a minimum. Electronically post materials via email.
- Take attendance electronically.