



CARE for CREATION TIP of the WEEK

Sep. 3: Individuals can have the largest impact on reducing climate warming by doing two things: by reducing their consumption of meat and dairy, and by flying less often. The first is easy because there are so many other nutritious options in the grocery stores. Flying less often means taking trains, buses, or cars, and deciding not to fly when possible. France has decided to ban short-distance flights, forcing travelers to use other forms of transportation instead.

Bonus tip in Season of Creation: Watering a lawn three times a week with a typical sprinkler consumes about 12,000 gallons of water per month. If you have a lawn, dig up a patch of it and plant a tree or some flowers to draw bees. Trees and bees are part of the solution!

Aug. 27: This week let's remember that we are part of creation and creation cares for us. Consider how our houseplants improve our lives. A study done at Virginia Tech led researchers to conclude that houseplants can reduce indoor dust by 20%. Filling as little as 2% of a room with plants will make an impact. In effect houseplants are efficient air cleaners. Plants release water vapor into the air which increases humidity. This can improve respiratory and skin health by offsetting the drying effects of heating systems. Plants also increase oxygen levels in the air by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen during photosynthesis. Increases in oxygenation can result in improved mood, energy and mental focus.

Aug. 13: In addition to tasting better, eating locally grown produce is better for the environment because it hasn't traveled thousands of miles using fossil fuels that produce large amounts of greenhouse gasses.

Aug. 6: When improving your wardrobe, and shopping for clothes, look for items in cotton, silk, wool, hemp, rayon and bamboo. Yes, it's hard to find what you want that's not polyester, but polyester is PLASTIC and will be despoiling our environment for thousands of years, maybe millions, until our scientists find a way to chemically destroy plastic. Non-polyester is even harder to find in thrift shops, but I've bought cotton from Land's End and LL Bean's catalogs.

July 30: Have salad for supper. You help the environment by keeping your oven off. You can help the environment even more by making your salad meatless. Try this [Broccoli Kale Salad](#).

July 23: Summertime is here and many of us may find ourselves at the beach. Let's reduce our carbon "fingerprint." How about a walk along the beach carrying a trash bag? Not only do we get exercise but we care for our Mother Earth. Remember you can trash a beach without being physically present. No matter where you live, the ocean is downstream. Don't use chemical fertilizers and pesticides on your lawn. On the driveway, avoid harmful cleaning products and take proper care of spilled oil to prevent contaminated runoff.

July 16: Moving gradually toward a plant-based diet is one of the best things you can personally do to benefit your own health as well as that of the planet. We gave ourselves a year to make the transition over 25 years ago. By 6 months we were all in and couldn't believe how little we missed meat and how relatively easy it was to convert most favorite recipes. Summertime with its bounteous fresh vegetables everywhere is a great time to try this out. You will not be sorry and the whole world will be better off for it.

July 9: If you are trying to recycle conscientiously, do not discard items that are “maybe” recyclable in your recycle bin. It’s likely that these items will have to be removed at your waste management facility, which adds to its costs and efficiency. Please take the time to visit your local government’s waste management website and find out what can be recycled in your area:

-- Fairfax County’s website is: [Curbside Recycling | Public Works and Environmental Services \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cw/es)

-- For Arlington, click on the following link:

www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Recycling-and-Trash. Scroll down the page to “Popular Topics” and select “Recycling Made Simple 2023.”

July 2: Don't toss those leftover bits of veggies, rice, pasta, potatoes, meat, or fish, and the delicious juices. Put them in a container in the freezer, and add to it during the week, or month. Defrost and mix with a couple of eggs and some cheese, sprinkle crumbs on top, and bake (yummy frittata), or add some broth, a can of tomatoes, or other canned soups, and bring to a boil (yummy soup or stew)! Keep it out of the landfill and reduce methane! YAY!!

June 18: Summer is here. Air Conditioning: **Refuse. Reduce. Recycle.** Keep the **AC off** as much as possible. If you turn it on, **add 1-2 degrees** to your normal setting and allow your body to gradually acclimate to that temperature. Make good **use of fans** – ceiling, floor, table – they’re all good.

The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it. –Robert Swan

June 11: So many products we use every day are packaged in plastic, most of which is not recycled. However, products such as liquid hand soap and even shampoo are available in solid bar form. You can also use powdered laundry detergent in boxes. Given the harm discarded plastic has already done to our oceans and waterways, it’s worth the time and effort to seek ways to lessen your use of plastic.

June 4: The weapons/gun industries are major contributors to war, death and pollution throughout the planet. Please continue to take actions against the NRA and all those politicians who take donations from the industry and continue to vote against gun control legislation. Write letters, send email messages, leave voicemails, march, and contribute to gun safety advocates such as Gabby Giffords, Everytown for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action, Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. Patronize businesses that support gun safety legislation and tell them why you are a customer. ALDI, CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Wegmans, Subway are some of the businesses that publicize their support for gun control.

May 21: Reusable mesh produce sacks are available for purchase at your supermarket, and replace single-use plastic bags. Your fruits and veggies will be happy in the breathable bags, and you will be happy that they are so much easier to open.

May 14: Keeping your heating and cooling system operating efficiently saves energy. It’s important to have your home’s ductwork cleaned and to replace your system’s filter regularly. Turn off your HVAC on lovely spring days like today. Open the windows and let the fresh air in!

May 7: PLASTIC: Let's reduce what we trash! Many of the items you buy in the grocery store, or receive from Amazon, are in **reusable** plastic bags. If you can push a hole in it with your finger, it goes back to the grocery store to recycle to make TREX for decks, etc. Or save it to use again. Put a drop of liquid soap in it, fill it with hot water, swish it around, empty it, hang it to dry and use it again. No need to buy any more plastic bags!

April 30: Choose the cold cycle on your washing machine. By washing four out of five loads of laundry in cold water, you could cut 864 pounds of CO2 emissions in a year, an amount equivalent to planting 0.37 acres of U.S. forest, [according to the American Cleaning Institute](#). Modern laundry detergents, even those that aren't marked for cold-water use, are typically formulated to clean just as well at lower temperatures.

April 23: Make every day Earth Day. Care for the Earth in all you do. For example, in the car:

- Drive at the speed limit.
- Avoid sudden starts or stops.
- Don't overfill the fuel tank.
- Check the tire pressure monthly.
- Change air and oil filters regularly.

April 16: April is Earth's Month – what will you give back? With waste pollution entering our environment at an ever-increasing rate, it's time for major corporations to do their part. Costco can make a big impact right now by stopping its excessive use of bulk packaging. Will you sign our petition [here](#) today?

April 9: This is the best time of year to get out of the house and enjoy a walk while taking in our annual "resurrection" of Mother Nature. While on your walk, consider how you can help conserve this amazing world our Creator has given us.

April 2: Don't throw your coffee grounds out and no need to compost them. Save them in a canister next to your coffee pot. When it's full, sprinkle the grounds around the base of your evergreen trees and shrubs. Your hollies, pines and azaleas love the gentle acid in coffee grounds.

March 26: Give the gift of adventure and experience over factory-made products.

March 19: Caring for Water Resources. The average household's leaks can account for nearly 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year and ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day. Common types of leaks found in the home are worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and other leaking valves. An easy way to see whether your toilet tank is leaking into the bowl is to put a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If color shows up in the bowl before the next flush, you have a leak. Another way is to simply listen for non-stop running water in the toilet. Fixing water leaks can save homeowners about 10 percent on their water bills.

March 12: If you plan to add new plants to your garden or yard this spring, you should look for ones that are native to your area. These plants thrive with less watering or use of toxic sprays for pests. One source for locating plants native to your area is: www.audubon.org/plants. You can also check out the local master gardeners' website: mgnv.org

March 5: Beginning to feel like Spring. Some of us may be putting seeds or plants into the ground for food/flowers. Some of us do not have "green thumbs." But we can support local farmers, reduce food-transport costs & bad environmental effects, eat healthier and enjoy meeting other kindred souls when we **shop at area Farmers' Markets**. Most function over the weekends. Are costs sometimes a little higher? Yes, but still worth it!

Feb. 26: Go outside. Connecting with creation and being reminded of God's goodness is a powerful way to motivate ourselves and others to care for our Earth. Not only that, numerous research studies show spending time in creation is so good for us in many ways – mentally, physically and spiritually. Make some time this week to spend time in nature and give thanks for this beautiful world God created. Plant

something in the garden, walk in your local reserve or find a nearby hiking track. Share with a friend or family member what you saw, heard and experienced. Give thanks to God for creating such a precious and amazing world.

Feb. 19: About 15% of global greenhouse emissions result from livestock farming — almost on par with those produced by all sectors of transportation. Each year the amount of forested land cleared for cattle grazing releases emissions equal to driving 600 million cars. This Lent give your health and the planet's health a boost and consume less red meat.

Feb. 12: By using vinegar to clean mirrors, kitchen counters, bathroom sinks, etc., you can save money and avoid buying more plastic spray bottles of cleaners that contain a lot of chemicals. Mix equal parts water and vinegar in a spray bottle. Use full strength vinegar to clean mildewed tile or grout.