



# GREENING NIAGARA COMMITTEE

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES WORKING GROUP

## CELEBRATING EARTH HOUR AND EARTH SUNDAY

Care for Creation is a central part of our faith, and an important mark of our ministry in living out God's mission in the world. Wouldn't it be amazing if our diocese became widely known for its care for creation, as demonstrated, in part, by its support for initiatives such as Earth Hour and Earth Sunday? And remember, that holding an environmentally themed worship service counts towards the green parish accreditation program!

**What is Earth Hour?** Earth Hour started in three years ago in Sydney, Australia with 2.2 million homes and businesses turning their lights off for one hour.

Today, Earth Hour

*“is a global call to action to every individual, every business and every community. A call to stand up, to take responsibility and to get involved in working towards a sustainable future. Iconic buildings and landmarks from Europe to the Americas will stand in darkness. People across the world will turn off their lights and join together in creating the vital conversation about the future of our precious planet.”*

It's an hour in time where we, as a people of faith who are striving to care for creation, symbolically turn off those things in our lives - televisions, stereos, computers and lights – which consume energy, as a witness for climate justice.

Earth Hour is **held on the last Saturday in March (31) from 8.30-9.30 PM**. We hope that you'll consider hosting an Earth Hour candle-light vigil at your worship space or join with another in your community. Encourage your municipality, local businesses and parishioners to observe earth hour too.

The organizers of Earth Hour hope to reach one billion people this year with their message of hope and action that we can make a difference and be better stewards of creation. Be sure to post your Earth Hour service on the diocesan website under special services.

For more information, check out:

- <http://wwf.ca/earthhour/>
- [www.niagara.anglican.ca/green](http://www.niagara.anglican.ca/green) (for a sample Earth Hour liturgy)

**Earth Sunday** - Earth Day began as a grass-roots movement in 1970, by a group of Americans concerned with raising the awareness of their country to issues pertaining to the environment. It has since spread, and has become a day celebrated throughout the world. As Christians, we gather each Sunday to worship God and to celebrate and give thanks for the abundance God has gifted us with in creation. And so it's only natural, that we observe Earth Day on the Sunday before. Earth Sunday provides a perfect opportunity to look at our faith through an environmental or green lens, and to challenge ourselves to strive to be better custodians of God's creation. Earth Sunday happens in mid-April, generally on **the Sunday before Earth Day**.

For resources about how to green your worship, here are just a few of the many websites that offer prayers, hymns and liturgies for Earth Day.

For more information, check out:

*About Earth Day:*

- <http://www.earthday.ca/pub/index.php>
- <http://earthday.rpg-works.net/ED/>

*Liturgical Resources:*

- <http://www.niagara.anglican.ca/green/docs/Season%20of%20Creation.pdf>
- [www.webofcreation.org/ncc/earthday/2002/worship.html](http://www.webofcreation.org/ncc/earthday/2002/worship.html)
- [www.gwipl.org/liturgies.asp](http://www.gwipl.org/liturgies.asp)
- <http://www.kairoscanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/SUS-EarthDayWorship.pdf>

*Ecological Justice Resources:*

- <http://www.re-energize.org/>
- <http://www2.anglican.ca/mission/action/ecology/climate1.htm>
- <http://www.faith-commongood.net/rsb/index.asp>
- <http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/index.asp?navid=613>