

# Starting a Climate Action Team

By: Catherine Welch

**You can start a Climate Action committee at your place of worship or in your neighborhood. Here are some ways to get started building a team of people.**

**Plan an Earth Day Celebration.** April is typically the month for Earth Day, so planning for an event needs to start in January at the latest. Activities might include a resource fair (described below); outdoor work projects such as tree planting or community garden maintenance; or a plant sale.

**Earth Day Resource Fair:** Invite representatives from the many local non-profits that are working on climate action to share their information. Booths or tables should be provided for materials. Venue could be outdoors if weather permits, or in a church's social hall. Encourage representatives to have some interactive dimension at their table: An activity, demonstration, or an attention grabbing product.

**Schedule a Climate Action Forum:** Invite neighborhood representatives or congregation members (or both!) to participate in a half-day planning event to create a vision and action plan for sustainability in their neighborhood. If congregational members come from "all over" rather than one neighborhood, the focus of the planning might be on what we all can do, wherever we live, to reduce our carbon footprints.

- Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action: [accelerateclimateaction.org](http://accelerateclimateaction.org).
- Green Team Academy: [greenteamacademy.org](http://greenteamacademy.org)

**Plan a Work Day:** Gather a group from your congregation and neighborhood to tackle a local climate related problem: Need a better tree canopy to reduce an urban heat zone? Plant trees! Is there a park or local street that is littered with trash? Enlist a group to do a quick clean-up or plan a beautification project.

**Offer a Climate Education Film Festival:** There have been many wonderful and inspiring films created to spur people to action on behalf of the Earth. Some have been widely distributed, such as those produced by Al Gore ([An Inconvenient Truth](#) and its sequel). Others are available through public libraries such as those produced by National Geographic. One caveat: plan ahead to obtain appropriate tech assistance and equipment.

## 101 Fact Sheet



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