



green
Catholic **INITIATIVE**
of Santa Clara County



www.ds.org/green
cgigreen@dsj.org

WHO WE ARE...

SOCIAL JUSTICE CORE PRINCIPLES AND METHODS

Mission

Our mission is to encourage local Catholics to conserve water and energy, as well as become more educated about conservation efforts and environmentally friendly practices for the home and workplace. We will collaborate on a unified green vision for the diocese.

The Diocese of San Jose agrees to:

- **PRAY** and reflect on our responsibility to care for God's creation and protect the poor and vulnerable
- **LEARN** and educate others about climate change
- **ASSESS** how we contribute to climate change (in the chancery, our parishes and schools, and our families)
- **ACT** to reduce our climate change impact
- **ADVOCATE** Catholic principles in climate change discussions and policy work

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee of CGI is available to help provide resources and materials to educate our communities on the important issues of caring for our planet and our responsibility to do so as Catholics.

The Education Committee is offering the following:

1. Assistance in the development of a Green Team in each parish of the Diocese of San Jose.
2. Gathering "Green" liaisons from each parish and offering them an opportunity to network and share best practices on scheduled quarterly meetings.
3. Diocesan Website Resources
 - St. Francis Pledge introductory articles.
 - A comprehensive bibliography of resources.
 - Links to websites with more information on going green.
4. A 4-5 session educational series about green topics is being developed to be offered in parishes in the fall.



RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Our mission is to develop projects that will enable parishes and parishioners within the Diocese to become more sustainable. We will accomplish this by assisting in the assessment of current resource usage, presenting specific recommendations for sustainable practices, and assisting in the implementation of sustainable practices. We will coordinate with other subcommittees as required to effectively accomplish our goals.

Current Project

Earn Your Green Belt in Sustainability

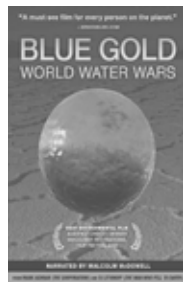
We will present a strategy for reducing personal energy usage in three areas: electricity usage, transportation and food consumption. Our hope is that participants will commit to making these planet-saving lifestyle changes, and move on beyond the novice stage to earn more advanced 'belts' in the fight to reduce energy usage.

Conducting Parish Energy Audits

The first step in reducing energy usage is to assess the amount of energy you or your organization currently uses. We will form small teams to conduct energy audits on parishes in the diocese. Focusing on the parishes, will make the biggest impact on the diocese overall energy consumption. Once the audits are conducted, we will recommend how best to reduce energy usage with a priority consideration of cost made.

WATER COMMITTEE

The Water Committee's focus is to have people in the diocese become aware of water related issues. This is being done, principally, by distributing of the film "Blue Gold" and sharing materials to advertise the movie within their parishes and schools in the diocese. While the awareness issue will continue to be a primary focus of the committee, we will expand our attention to deal with regional and national water related issues. Adam Scow with Food & Water Watch said, "Conservation programs are the most important because conservation is the most cost effective way to improve long term sustainability of water resources."



Parishes Can:

- Borrow "Blue Gold" movie from the diocese Social Ministry office
- Contact Water Committee for materials (posters, handouts, ideas, etc.), advertising and movie
- Book speakers available from FoodandWaterWatch.org
- Contact local water department will administer water audits for the parish complex with your local water department and learn how to conserve

Encourage your parishioners to Conserve Water

Tips: Use water bottles at parish functions (BYOB) and eliminate plastic throwaways.

Turn off running water while brushing one's teeth.



ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The Advocacy Committee of the Catholic Green Initiative of Santa Clara County works to advocate for Catholic principles and priorities in environmental issues and decisions, especially as they unproportionately impact those who are poor and vulnerable. The Committee works to identify, promote and inspire all of the parish, school and religious communities of Santa Clara County to recognize, respect and act in ways that reflect our covenant relationship and duty as stewards to care for God's Creation.

Services

We can offer the parishes the following:

- St Francis Pledge rollout, send a person out to the parish to discuss:
 - Where to get materials
 - How and why parishioners should care
 - Announcements and talking points
- Send someone out to talk about environmental stewardship and CGI in general
 - Contacts for outside DSJ environmental resources
 - Tree planting information for City of San Jose parishes
 - Other green groups and organizations such as CCCC, CIPL, local cities etc.
- Table on behalf of CGI at any parish event, picnic, fair, carnival, mass, etc.
- Assist/ speak for any local Green Initiative that aligns with the Bishop's views, for example, speaking at the city council, or help someone prepare their speech

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee will help promote Catholic Green Initiatives of Santa Clara County and be involved in the exciting effort of proclaiming the wonderful work that we do!

CONTACTS

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Water Committee	Chair	Tom Walsh; tlsulpt@sbcglobal.net
Advocacy Committee	Chair	Gerard McGuire; gerardmc@aol.com
Communications Committee	Chair	Penny Warne; pwarne@dsj.org

PARTNERS

