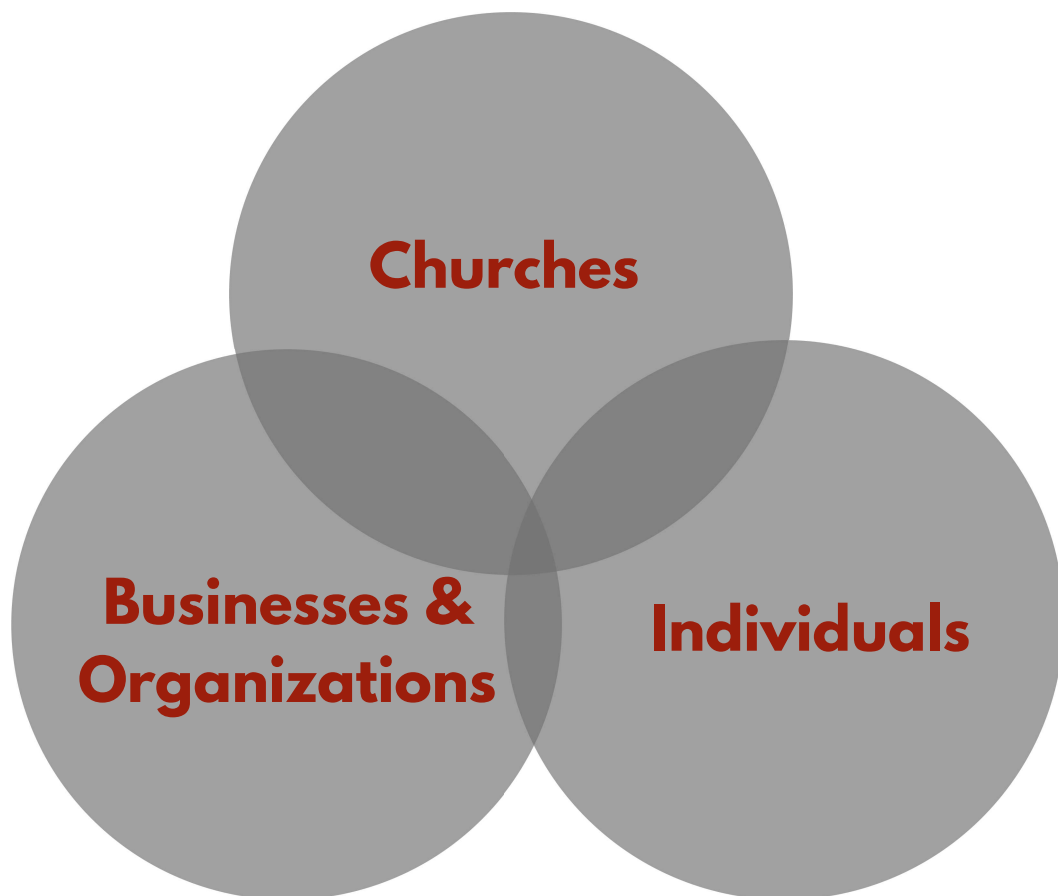




# C3 Certification

C3 Certification is a practical means to create self-regulating accountability for churches, businesses/organizations, and individuals.

Please utilize this certification process to do your part to care for God's creation and practice environmental sustainability.



**Churches**  **Businesses & Organizations**  **Individuals**




# Certification for Churches

Would you like to be a C3 congregation?

Would you like your community, neighbors and the younger generation especially, to know that you are committed to caring for creation? C3 certification is a practical tool to help you assess how you are doing in caring for creation. It can be an important element in nurturing a “Creation Care” ethic into DNA of your congregation.

## What is C3 Certification for Churches?

C3 certification is a practical tool in assessing your congregation’s engagement with creation care. The tool measures activities in four categories: worship, discipleship, facilities and outreach. Congregations scoring 25 points, 5 in each category will be certified and receive:

-  C3 Certificate
-  Permitted use C3 branding logo on all church materials/media sites
-  Listed as a C3 congregation on the Christians Caring for Creation website: [christianscaringforcreation.org](http://christianscaringforcreation.org)

## How Do We Become a C3 Church?

First, select a C3 team to carry out the assessment. The selection can be as formal or informal as is suitable for your particular context. The team can be as small as two people or as many as you deem effective. It could be the pastor and one other person or it could be assigned to a standing committee in the church. The team will carry out the assessment directly or make assignments to teams or committees within the church as needed. If the assessment results in a point total of 25 or more, the team can notify C3 Board of Directors who will initiate the certification recognition.





## Certification for Churches-continued

### Why is C3 Certification Important?

The opening story of creation in the Bible reveals that humankind was given the responsibility to care for the earth (Gen 1:26). Jesus himself taught the Law of God could be fulfilled by loving God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, and then loving our neighbor as ourselves. Obedience to God and love for God calls us to care for God's creation and to love our neighbors, especially our most vulnerable neighbors. Caring for creation is an act of obedient discipleship. Following the commands of Jesus Christ is not merely a ticket to heaven, it is a roadmap for earth. A C3 certification demonstrates to the members of that congregation, as well as those outside the church living nearby that this congregation loves God, loves God's sanctuary, and all those who inhabit it.

### C3 Assessment Tool









#### WORSHIP

-  Devote a Sunday worship service to the theme of creation care, inclusive of sermon, hymns and readings.  
**5 points**
  
-  Devote a Lenten service to the confession of the exploitation and neglect of the earth by humanity. Another possibility would be focusing on theme of simplicity.  
**5 points**
  
-  Have a personal testimony in the worship service from someone on the subject of creation care.  
**2 points**
  
-  Have an outdoor worship service at the planting or harvesting of a community garden.  
**5 points**

# Certification for Churches-continued

## C3 Assessment Tool










### DISCIPLESHIP

-  Utilize the four week Sunday School curriculum on creation care created by C3 contributors.  
**20 points**
-  Utilize a Sunday School lesson on creation care created by C3 contributors or other creation care advocates.  
**5 points**
-  Host a VBS using a creation care curriculum.  
Recommend: [www.solarunderthesun.org](http://www.solarunderthesun.org) (PCUSA resource)  
**10 points**
-  Host a leadership retreat led by a C3 speaker.  
**10 points**
-  Host a meeting with guest speaker from C3.  
**5 points**
-  Add books to your church library on subjects of creation care, environment, conservation or earth sustainability. See C3 resource library for recommendations.  
**2 points**
-  Promote a book study among small groups utilizing a book on the subjects listed above.  
**2 points**
-  Encourage members to recycle and stop purchasing bottled water.  
**1 point**

# Certification for Churches-continued

## C3 Assessment Tool

### FACILITIES & GROUNDS

-  Complete a professional energy audit. Contact your local utility provider to see if they will perform free or low-cost audits for churches.  
**5 points**
-  Incorporate renewal energy components into new projects.  
**20 points**
-  Convert to reusable dinner/tableware in place of plastics.  
**5 points**
-  Purchase ENERGY STAR appliances.  
**5 points**
-  Establish and maintain a compost pile for yard and food scraps at your church.  
**5 points**
-  Provide recycling bins in key locations throughout the church for paper, plastics, glass and cardboard.  
**3 points**
-  Use recycled paper/office supplies, including ink/toner  
**2 points**
-  Host a fellowship vegetarian meal as a means to promote eating lower on the food chain.  
**3 points**
-  Practice green landscaping/eliminate pesticide use  
**5 points**

# Certification for Churches-continued

## C3 Assessment Tool

### OUTREACH

-  Organize and maintain a community garden. Invite those outside the congregation to sew, tend and reap.  
**5 points**
  
-  Organize and lead a ½ day, full day or weekend retreat for inner city children who can't experience the beauty of quiet landscape and nature trails.  
**5 points**
  
-  Create an advocacy group within the congregation to advocate for eco-justice among those in power. Amplify the voice of the earth.  
**5 points**
  
-  Sponsor and organize a Habitat for Humanity Restore Day, collecting reusable and surplus building materials on behalf of your community.  
**3 points**
  
-  Offer office space in your church facility to a local non-profit involved in creation care.  
**5 points**
  
-  Promote "Buy Local" events like hosting a farmer's market on your church grounds.  
**2 points**
  
-  Commit to giving one percent of your church budget to C3 and/or other networks committed to creation care.  
**10 points**