



## CREATION CARE TEAMS (CCT) GETTING STARTED GUIDE

### BEFORE YOUR FIRST MEETING:

**Invite people.** Our [Recruitment Toolkit](#) gives you ideas and step-by-step directions to bring people to the table.

**Set an agenda.** Decide on clear goals for your first meeting before it begins. Make sure that one of your goals is discussing individual member's strengths and interests, so that you have information to make the most of your team. To energize your members, you might plan your first activity around a quick win, such as taking a Creation-observing walk around the parish or school. Our [Roadmap Toolkit](#) is a good resource to get you started as you plan activities.

### AT YOUR FIRST MEETING:

**Meet and greet.** Let members introduce themselves and explain what their expectations of and goals for the CCT are.

This is a great time to evaluate what your team members are interested in and where their strengths lie. Is your team particularly interested in advocacy and fired up for letters to the editor, or do they want to get their hands dirty? Discuss what projects your team might want to get involved with in the future.

**Establish a meeting time and place.** As a group, decide what time and place work best for regular meetings. Strive to accommodate as many people as possible, but realize that not everyone will be able to attend every single meeting.

**Designate a note taker.** While this isn't essential, it's helpful to have someone who can take notes throughout the meeting. It will ensure good ideas aren't forgotten, that recaps can be provided to members who missed a meeting, and that the group stays accountable to its mission.

**Analyze your community.** Along with fellow team members, think about how people in your community will respond to the CCT. Will your pastor or pastoral council be supportive? Which ministries and staff should you reach out to? Our [Leadership Engagement Guide](#) gives you clear tips on how to reach leaders in your parish, and our [Courageous Conversations Guide](#) gives you advice on how to compassionately engage people who resist solutions to climate change.

### SOON AFTER:



Creation Care Teams (CCT) enable the Catholic community to lead the charge to solve climate change. Whether it's a group from your parish, workplace, or school, your CCT will work to make a difference, create more sustainable facilities, and advocate for faith-informed climate policies. CCT help transform your community and become, in Pope Francis's words, "protectors of God's gifts."

Pulling together all the pieces for your CCT can seem overwhelming. We have provided this toolkit to lay out the first steps you're likely to encounter on your journey.

We're always available to answer any additional questions. Please drop us a line at [programs@catholicclimatecovenant.org](mailto:programs@catholicclimatecovenant.org) if you'd like to be in touch. Your CCT is a big part of the faithful solution to climate change, and we thank you for your work.

**Meet with your pastor.** Now that you've talked through what your group hopes to accomplish, it's time to speak to your pastor. Set up an initial meeting to gauge his interest in working with your group, establish a point person your group can connect with to present ideas or questions, and learn if there's a budget for any of your group's activities.

**Plan quick-win activities.** One of the best ways to build confidence among team members, establish a team dynamic, and recruit new members is by starting with small activities for early "wins." These small-scale projects help your team gain experience before proceeding to larger-scale actions.

## LONG-TERM:

**Recruit new members.** Make your team truly open and welcoming. Recruit additional members with the help of our [Recruitment Toolkit](#).

**Play to people's strengths.** As your team grows, becomes more comfortable working together, and tackles larger projects, it's time to divvy up the work. Putting people in charge of various activities, like money management, communications, or coordinating with the parish, will help the team succeed. This also ensures everyone feels like they're a valued, contributing member of the team.

**Connect with the wider community.** Creation care is an integral part of our faith. Make sure your parish or school is aware of your accomplishments, and continually help others see the spiritual value in caring for Creation.

## CCT RESOURCE LIBRARY:

1. [Getting Started Guide](#)
2. [Recruitment Toolkit](#)
3. [Roadmap Toolkit](#)
4. [Leadership Engagement Guide](#)
5. [Courageous Conversations Guide](#)
6. [Sample Bulletin Insert](#)
7. [Sample Flyer](#)
8. [Climate Change and Youth](#)
9. [Greening Catholic Ministry](#)
10. [Guide to Climate Change and Catholic Social Teaching](#)
11. [Solar Power and Renewables Buyers Guide](#)
12. [Earth Day Guide](#)

