

# Vienna Green Congregation Certification

*The Town of Vienna strives to attain a sustainable way of living that preserves the natural environment, conserves finite resources and supports a resilient community for future generations.*

Town of Vienna Comprehensive Plan

As the Town of Vienna finishes celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Town's Community Enhancement Commission looks forward to the future! Faith communities are a big part of that future. The Town wants to encourage and recognize faith congregations as they move toward greater environmental sustainability and model this commitment for the community.

What is sustainability? It is a way of living that allows current communities to meet their needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs as well. Just as the [VA Green Restaurant](#) and [VA Green Lodging](#) programs promote sustainability in the tourism industry, this certification can help Vienna congregations model sustainability for the Vienna community.

Participation in the program is free. Simply fill out the following application and submit it to the Town of Vienna (Community Enhancement Commission, 127 Center St. S, Vienna VA 22180) by February 15 to nominate your congregation for a Green Congregation Certification for the previous calendar year.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact Desiree Di Mauro (Vienna CEC member) at [desiree@d2t2.org](mailto:desiree@d2t2.org).

### **Score sheet for congregations owning property**

**Gold Award:** 135 – 147+ points

**Silver Award:** 119 – 134 points

**Bronze Award:** 103 – 118 points

<b>ORGANIZATION/LEADERSHIP</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Total</b>
Organize and maintain a “green team” to lead environmental activities in the congregation	5	
Schedule an environmental presentation which introduces sustainability and/or participation in this program	1	
Complete development of an overall sustainability action plan for the congregation. This plan should be multi-year and contain specific action items.	7	
Schedule at least one outdoor worship service	1	
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Total</b>
Host a multi-week book/movie study or small group study on an environmental topic	5	
Measure the congregation’s (the facility) carbon footprint using <a href="http://www.nature.org/greenliving/carboncalculator">http://www.nature.org/greenliving/carboncalculator</a> , <a href="http://www.myfootprint.org">www.myfootprint.org</a> , <a href="http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/ind-calculator.html">http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/ind-calculator.html</a> , or other footprint calculator	5	
Reduce the congregation’s (facility’s) carbon footprint by 10% from the previous year	7	
Shift congregation communications from paper to electronic media – as much as possible	1	
Publish a monthly article on an environmental stewardship topic in the congregation newsletter or bulletin	1	
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Total</b>
Put office machines on power strips, which are turned off when not in use, and unplug rarely used appliances	1	
Buy “energy star” appliances whenever appliances must be replaced	1 point per appliance	
Install water saver reminders in all bathrooms and kitchens	1	
Replace old heating/air conditioning units with Energy Star compliant models	5	
Turn off computers and other appliances overnight (or put into “energy saver” mode) or when not in use; purchase power strips with timers	1	
Clean radiators/heating ducts/refrigerator coils at least every three months, or as recommended by manufacturer	1	
Install EPA WaterSense faucets in all bathrooms	3	
Install EPA WaterSense toilets in all bathrooms	5	
Install movement sensitive light switches throughout the facility (1 point for every 2 switches)	1	
<b>REDUCE/REUSE/RECYCLE and CLEANING</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Total</b>

Publicize options for reducing “junk mail” to all members	1	
Recycle paper, bottles, cans, and plastic used at the facility	2	
Ensure that at least 30% of procured paper products (paper, paper towels, toilet paper, cups, etc) come from recycled sources	5	
For congregation publications, use paper labeled “Certified Processed Chlorine Free” and minimum 30% post consumer waste recycled fiber content. Display the recycling, and chlorine-free logos on the publication. (100% post consumer waste is goal.)	3	
Purchase bathroom tissue, facial tissue, paper towels, and paper napkins made from minimum 30% post consumer waste recycled paper that is also Certified Processed Chlorine Free	3	
Use primarily eco-friendly cleaning products at the facility	2	
Increase use of reusable dishes/utensils in church kitchens and rooms	1	
Reduce the amount of office paper used by 10% per year	2	
<b>ENERGY USE</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Total</b>
Conduct a professional energy audit of the facility	5	
Develop an energy improvement plan, based on professional audit	5	
Present findings and recommendations of energy audit to congregation’s governing organization (church council, etc)	1	
Replace all incandescent bulbs with energy saving bulbs	2	
Insulate/weather-strip building pipes/walls/ceilings/doors/water heaters/wall outlets	2	
Use blinds to help regulate temperature	1	
Employ other energy conservation tools/appliances/retrofits	1 point for each installation	
Convert facility to renewable energy sources	7	
Establish an “anti-idling” policy for all congregation-owned vehicles and vehicles visiting the property	3	
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Total</b>
Install bike racks at the facility	3	
Institute “walk/bike/metro/carpool to religious services” days	1	
Develop a carpool system for congregation activities	2	
Provide congregation employees with financial incentives for biking, ride-sharing, or using public transportation to get to work	1	
<b>LANDSCAPING and GROUNDS</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Total</b>
Develop an integrated pest management strategy for landscaping pesticides with a goal of eliminating pesticide use at the facility	5	
Reduce fertilizer use at the facility to twice yearly treatments, as appropriate	3	
Establish a community garden at the facility	3	
Build a rain garden or install rain barrels	3	
Utilize xeriscaping for lawns and landscaping	4	
Plant deciduous trees on the south and west sides of buildings	2	
Plant native plants on facility grounds	4	
Install permeable paver parking lots/sidewalks/driveways	4	
Plant stormwater buffer vegetation around parking lots	3	

Compost all yard and kitchen waste produced at the facility	4	
Allow congregation members to participate in composting	2	
Utilize energy efficient and dark-sky compliant outdoor light fixtures by replacing existing sodium or mercury lights with dark skies compliant LEDs.	2	
Reduce the amount of turf at the facility by 10% by planting native gardens, trees, etc.	2	
<b>ADVOCACY</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Total</b>
Join with other congregations to pool resources for efforts toward environmental sustainability and justice	1	

**Score sheet for congregations that do not own property**

**Gold Award:** 68 – 75+ points

**Silver Award:** 60 – 67 points

**Bronze Award:** 52 -- 59 points

<b>ORGANIZATION/LEADERSHIP</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Total</b>
Organize and maintain a “green team” to lead environmental activities in the congregation	5	
Schedule an environmental presentation which introduces sustainability and/or participation in this program	1	
Complete development of an overall sustainability action plan for the congregation. This plan should be multi-year and contain specific action items.	7	
Schedule at least one outdoor worship service	1	
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Total</b>
Host a multi-week book/movie study or small group study on an environmental topic	5	
Measure the congregation’s operational carbon footprint using <a href="http://www.nature.org/greenliving/carboncalculator">http://www.nature.org/greenliving/carboncalculator</a> , <a href="http://www.myfootprint.org">www.myfootprint.org</a> , <a href="http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/ind-calculator.html">http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/ind-calculator.html</a> , or other footprint calculator	5	
Reduce the congregation’s (facility’s) carbon footprint by 10% from the previous year	7	
Shift congregation communications from paper to electronic media – as much as possible	1	
Publish a monthly article on an environmental stewardship topic in the congregation newsletter or bulletin	1	
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Total</b>
Put office machines on power strips, which are turned off when not in use, and unplug rarely used appliances	1	
Buy “energy star” appliances whenever appliances must be replaced	1 point per appliance	
Turn off computers and other appliances overnight (or put into “energy saver” mode) or when not in use; purchase power strips with timers	1	
Clean radiators/heating ducts/refrigerator coils at least every three months, or as recommended by manufacturer	1	
<b>REDUCE/REUSE/RECYCLE and CLEANING</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Total</b>
Publicize options for reducing “junk mail” to all members	1	
Recycle paper, bottles, cans, and plastic used at the facility	2	
Ensure that at least 30% of procured paper products (paper, paper towels, toilet paper, cups, etc) come from recycled sources	5	
For congregation publications, use paper labeled “Certified Processed Chlorine Free” and minimum 30% post consumer waste recycled fiber	3	

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Purchase bathroom tissue, facial tissue, paper towels, and paper napkins made from minimum 30% post consumer waste recycled paper that is also Certified Processed Chlorine Free	3	
Use primarily eco-friendly cleaning products at the facility	2	
Increase use of reusable dishes/utensils in church kitchens and rooms	1	
Reduce the amount of office paper used by 10% per year	2	
<b>ENERGY USE</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Total</b>
Replace all incandescent bulbs with energy saving bulbs	2	
Use blinds to help regulate temperature	1	
Employ other energy conservation tools/appliances/retrofits	1 point for each installation	
Establish an "anti-idling" policy for all congregation-owned vehicles and vehicles visiting the property	3	
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Total</b>
Install bike racks at the facility	3	
Institute "walk/bike/metro/carpool to religious services" days	1	
Develop a carpool system for congregation activities	2	
Provide congregation employees with financial incentives for biking, ride-sharing, or using public transportation to get to work	1	
<b>ADVOCACY</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Total</b>
Join with other congregations to pool resources for efforts toward environmental sustainability and justice	1	