20 Ways to Care for Creation on the Sunshine Coast

Protecting Local Ecosystems

1. Volunteer with Streamkeepers: Join or donate to the Sunshine Coast Streamkeepers Society to restore salmon habitats in our creeks (https://sunshinecoaststreamkeepers.com/).
2. Remove invasive species: Casually or by organizing or joining a "weed pull" with the Invasive Species Council of BC to remove ivy and broom (https://bcinvasives.ca/).
3. Practice bear-smart garbage and composting habits: See pointers from the Sunshine Coast Bear Alliance (https://www.scbearalliance.com/).
4. Plant native species: Replace lawn areas with native BC plants like salal or Oregon grape to support native pollinators and reduce water use.

Sustainable Living & Home Stewardship

5. Bank at the Credit Union to ensure that your money is invested locally and not supporting the fossil fuel industry. (https://www.sunshineccu.com/about).
6. Switch to heat pumps: Replace oil or gas furnaces with heat pumps to save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
7. Install rain barrels: Store rainwater for gardening to reduce the strain on the Chapman Creek watershed during summer.
8. Audit home efficiency: Arrange for an energy assessment to reduce energy waste (e.g. ARG Energy, 778-907-9591 or Capital Home Energy Inc, 778-235-7548)
9. Compost via Salish Soils facilities: Ensure organic waste becomes nutrient-rich soil rather than landfill methane.

10. Participate in the circular economy: Shop at local thrift stores for clothing. Buy refurbished phones and computers.
11. Team up with family, neighbours or others from St Hilda's to grow fresh food in your garden, balcony, or window boxes.

🚲 Transportation & Community Shifts

12. Use the BC Transit buses to reduce single-occupancy vehicle emissions. Transit from Sechelt to Gibsons costs $2, whereas average SUV gasoline cost for the same trip is $4.
13. E-Bike the Coast: Get an e-bike and leave the car behind.
14. Carpool to Church: Ask Green Parish Action Team members about ride-share possibilities to reduce the number of vehicles on the road and greenhouse gas emissions.
15. Support local agriculture: Shop at the Sechelt Farmers' Market, Davis Bay Farmers' Market or Gibsons Public Market.

📖 Faith-Based Action, Advocacy & Education

16. Connect with A Rocha, a Christian conservation group, for resources (https://arocha.ca).
17. Write Patrick Weiler MP (Patrick.Weiler@parl.gc.ca) and Randene Neill MLA (Randene.Neill.MLA@leg.bc.ca) to advocate for strong marine protections on the BC coastline or to express your concern for the climate emergency.
18. Join (for one meeting or a year's worth) St Hilda's Green Parish Action Team. Talk to us at coffee hour.
19. Engage with "For the Love of Creation," a Canadian faith-based climate initiative, for advocacy toolkits and letter-writing campaigns. (https://fortheloveofcreation.ca/).
20. Make daily or weekly time for observing, praying and communing with God-in-Nature.