The Creation Care Ambassadors program is an adaptation of an ecoAmerica initiative, facilitated in collaboration between the ELCA and ecoAmerica's Blessed Tomorrow program along with Lutherans Restoring Creation. Creation Care Ambassadors are trained, supported and connected with opportunities. The Creation Care Ambassadors program makes connections between faith and climate and highlights actions that ELCA congregations can take now to help protect families and communities while also ensuring a prosperous, just, secure and resilient future. The program equips Lutherans to be leaders in settings across the church and in our communities.
How is the ELCA involved in creation care?

Many ELCA ministries are active in creation care activity, and in late 2019 the ELCA established a Sustainability Table to synergize efforts with representation from ELCA Advocacy, Global Mission, Lutheran Disaster Response, Racial Justice Ministries, Stewardship, Young Adult Ministry, synods, congregations and others. The table holistically pulls together the ELCA’s creation care efforts, strategies and activities to make us more effective stewards of creation.

Among the goals established by the ELCA’s Future Direction 2025 paper are enhancing leadership development and increasing congregational vitality. The table advances these goals and promotes justice through inclusive participation and an emphasis on sufficiency and sustainability.

Trained Creation Care Ambassadors have important roles in the work of the table and in the ELCA as we reclaim and act on Christians’ responsibility to be stewards of creation along with all neighbors.

Additional information about ELCA environment activity, particularly through collaboration with Blessed Tomorrow, can be found at https://elca.org/environment, including “Moving Forward: A Guide to Climate Action for Your Congregation and Community.” Resources can also be found at https://elca.org/resources/advocacy, such as “Why Lutherans Care for Creation: Building on Our Foundations.”

What’s involved in Creation Care Ambassador training?

Creation Care Ambassador training uses a set of market-tested tools, including: a one-hour version of the training to be used by Creation Care Ambassadors in their presentations, handouts with notes and citations, and access to a website with support materials and recordings. Hundreds have participated in training webinars since they were introduced in the ELCA, and some have moved forward to become officially certified. Certified Creation Care Ambassadors are authorized to present information on climate and health impacts and advocacy strategies on climate solutions in the United States.

If I’m interested in learning more, what are my next steps?

To explore Creation Care Ambassador training in the ELCA for yourself or your ministry setting, or to invite a certified Creation Care Ambassador to provide resources on local creation care activity, contact Lutherans Restoring Creation, info@lutheransrestoringcreation.org. Lutherans Restoring Creation is a grassroots movement promoting care for creation in the ELCA. Future training opportunities will also be promoted through ELCA Advocacy on social media, @ELCAadvocacy.

“The prospect of doing too little too late leads many people to despair. But as people of faith, captives of hope, and vehicles of God’s promise, we face the crisis,” reads Caring for Creation (p. 12). Creation Care Ambassadors can equip us to face the crisis effectively and embrace the promise.