



Season of Creation

ASSESS how each of us can better care for our common home

“The LORD God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, *to cultivate and care for it.*” Genesis 2:15

“What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?”
Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, Paragraph 160

Here are some ideas for assessing your impact:

Energy Consumption Take 5 minutes using the EPA’s online Carbon Footprint Calculator <https://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/> to find where you can save money and reduce CO2 emissions in the areas of home energy, transportation, and waste. You will see how your household compares to others in energy consumption, get ideas for specific ways to reduce energy consumption, and interactively see the impact in dollars saved and reduced carbon emission.

Renewable Energy Options One option to consider is enrolling in the DTE MIGreenPower renewable energy program <https://newlook.dteenergy.com/wps/wcm/connect/dte-web/quicklinks/migreenpower> to support renewable energy on our electric grid and the growth of renewable wind and solar energy in Michigan. Average customers expect to pay anywhere from \$5 to \$25 per month depending on energy usage and can participate in 5% increments up to 100%.

Material Consumption Pope Francis asks us to move away from what he calls a “throwaway culture”. Consider ways to better limit purchases to what is needed and avoid waste.

Recycling and Repurposing Do you recycle at home by participating in the Rochester Hills recycling program or similar? Do you sell, donate or repurpose household items that you no longer need? NextDoor, Facebook Marketplace and similar social media are useful tools for selling or giving away items. Consider donating clothing and household items at the parish St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) collections or at any SVdP donation center.

Learn more about the Season of Creation at www.seasonofcreation.org, and in our bulletin in the coming weeks.