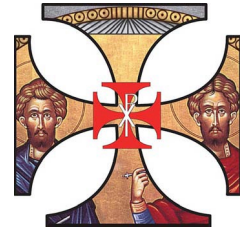


National Philoptochos Society 2014-2016 Committee Report



Environment Responsibility

Co-Chairs: Theone Dickos and Diane Saphos

Liaison: Evangeline Mekras Scurtis

Members: Pam Argyris

Despina Denne

Pat Gogos

Marilyn Tzakis

"It is a qualitative element of our faith that we believe in and accept a Creator, who fashioned the world out of love, making and calling it "very good." Tending to and caring for this creation is not a political whim or a social fashion. It is a divine commandment; it is a religious obligation. It is no less than the will of God that we leave as light a footprint on our environment."

The powerful quote by His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew inspires the Environment Responsibility Committee to continue fulfilling its mission and goals.

Through shared values and principles, the mission of the Environment Responsibility Committee is to promote awareness and provide programs and procedures to the chapters that will contribute to the preservation and sustainability of our environment.

The goals of the Environment Responsibility Committee:

- to provide guidelines for green activities and programs within the church communities stressing the importance of environmental stewardship.
Examples: recycling and energy conservation.
- to provide educational resources to the chapters that reflect the message of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios.
"The environment is a work of God. We must act responsibly, so that it will be sustained."
- to provide a continuing challenge and reminder for each chapter to implement the recycling projects and initiatives recommended by the committee.
- to recommend and provide guidelines for one new recycling project each year starting with the year 2014.

To fulfill the mission and meet the goals:

1. The committee continues to write a bimonthly communication of "Green Tips" which help sustain the environment. The Communications Committee posts all the bimonthly communications on the Philoptochos website. A teaser is featured on the Home Page and is linked to a page that permanently houses the "Green Tips." The communications are also posted on the Philoptochos Face book page with a direct link to a printable version on the Philoptochos website. The Environment Committee has proposed that all the issues of the Philanthropy Witness feature a short article devoted to the environment, and list all the links to its communications and initiatives.
2. The committee continues to send a reminder and challenge to the chapters to implement the following initiatives: **Be Responsible, Go Green and Get Green**, the recycling of small electronics, and **Be Responsible, Be Active and Be Aware in Sustaining the Environment**, the recycling of plastic bags. Both projects are on the Philoptochos website at: www.philoptochos.org. Proceed to Ministry/Outreach and click on Projects. Simple guidelines are included for easy implementation of the programs.
3. To increase membership participation, the committee is recommending a new project each year. For 2015-2016, the project will be in two parts.
 - The committee reviewed the following website:
<http://science.howstuffworks.com/innovation/edible>

This link contains **Ten Tips for Eco-Friendly Cooking**. Since everyone likes to eat or cook, this is an excellent initiative for participation in helping to sustain our environment.

- For the second part of the initiative, **the committee is researching and planning a section with guidelines on how to prepare and cultivate Community Gardens**. In harvesting the food from the gardens, the chapters may proceed to give the produce to those in need.

The environment is a work of God. Be responsible and always be an active participant in reusing and recycling all recyclable items. Being green should be a way of life. Any little part that we can do will help make a difference.