

# Water Shield

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## What is the GreenFaith Water Shield?

The GreenFaith Water Shield \_\_ is an eco-merit badge signifying that a faith-based institution has taken steps - educational, spiritual, and practical - to conserve water, protect water quality, and mobilize its members and community to do the same at home.

You get a turnkey package of resources, structure and support to help you do a hands-on environmental program.

You can register here.



## How Does GreenFaith Help?

GreenFaith provides easy-to-follow instructions and all the materials you'll need, including:

- Water-themed prayers and sacred texts
- Hands-on activities for people of all ages
- Action steps for your building and grounds
- Action steps for your members to take at home
- Email and telephone support

## What are the Benefits for my Institution?

1. An environmental program you can wrap your arms around. Take meaningful steps to protect water, with a time commitment you and your volunteers can easily manage.
2. \*\*Receive a turnkey environmental program. GreenFaith provides the structure and resources you need to set and measure goals, and complete



the program successfully. No need to reinvent the wheel.

3. \*\*Attract and engage new & younger members. The Shield provides activities for people of all ages. It's green outreach in action.
4. \*\*Energize worship. "One of the most well attended services of the year."
5. \*\*Reduce your water costs. While savings will not be large, earning the Shield will reduce your facility's water bills.



### Why Water Protection?

Because water is scarce, and we use a lot.

The average American family of four uses an astounding 400 gallons of water a day, in a world where 1800 million people will be living with water scarcity by 2025 (UN).

Because water quality is worsening. Climate change brings more severe storm events, and more flooding. Pavement is increasing every day, and more chemicals like pesticides are used on the land. This leads to runoff and contamination of our waterways.

Because we can make a difference. Small actions count - if one in every 10 homes in the United States were to install WaterSense labeled faucets or faucet accessories in their bathrooms, it could save 6 billion gallons of water. (Water Sense).

### How Does my Institution Earn the Shield?

To earn the Shield, participating institutions complete steps scheduled around a Water Weekend. You'll carry out:

- Educational activities for children, teens and adults



- A water-themed worship service
- Action Steps within your building and on your grounds, chosen from a list of suggested steps
- Outreach and education of members, to help them take steps at home. This will include distribution of a household pledge form which GreenFaith provides

You'll start first with meeting as a team to plan out your activities and build your action plan. Then you'll do your "Water Weekend" where water will be integrated into worship, education and outreach.

When you complete the Shield process, you'll receive a certificate and an electronic badge for use with e-mails and social media and on your website.

### What's the Cost?

The Program cost is a one-time donation of \$50.

### What's My Next Step?

Register here.



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