

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## *Action*

### 6. Collaborate with Others

“I don’t believe in magic. I believe in the sun and the stars, the water, the tides, the floods, the owls, the hawks flying, the river running, the owl talking. They’re measurements. They tell us how healthy things are. How healthy we are. Because we and they are the same. That’s what I believe in.”

—Billy Frank, Jr., Nisqually Tribe

**Recommendation:** Congregations are encouraged to reach out and collaborate with other local communities of faith; tribal and cultural communities; and non-profit organizations that are active in Creation Care and climate justice to learn together, support commitments to act, and amplify the power of any action.

**Background:** Our Pacific Northwest has numerous organizations—both faith-based and secular—that have been advocating for the environment for years and, in some cases, decades.

These might be regional and faith-based, like Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power and Light; local and secular, such as a Land Trust in a particular county; statewide like the Sierra Club/Washington State, or national like 350.org. These are allies and partners, such that no congregation needs to develop actions on their own but can join in and be empowered by what is already well underway.

In addition, listening to the words of indigenous people or people from other cultural and faith traditions deepens our awareness that sustaining the earth is something we all must share in and that comes from very deep and universal knowledge and tradition.

**Taking Action:** Here are some suggestions for building relationships:

- Through Diocesan coordination, promote easily accessible networking amongst congregations to capitalize on the unique strengths, interests, and experiences of different congregational communities.
- Connect with the environmental non-profits that are working at the local level for causes that have a clearly felt connection to the local concerns of the congregation.
- Connect with other local faith communities to learn from each other's faith statements about sustaining the earth and participate together in workshops, teaching, and action in the community.
- Connect with local tribes: Since all the land we have was appropriated, we owe First Nations a profound duty of support. In dialogue with tribes, we should
  - Review the history and background of the relationship of the Episcopal Church and indigenous peoples and institute the practice of land acknowledgment. Go to <https://ecww.org/land-acknowledgement/> to start.
  - Support the return of traditional lands to tribes.

- Support recognition of tribal status.
- Support preservation of sacred peoples (salmon, shellfish, herbal plants, cedar, and others).
- Support payment of real rent.
- Stand with tribe members to protect treaty rights and waters such as the Salish Sea, lakes, rivers, and streams.

By repairing our relations with others, we are repairing ourselves.

**Resources:**

- Faith Action Network: <https://fanwa.org/>
- Faith in Place: <https://www.faithinplace.org/home>
- Green Muslims: <https://www.greenmuslims.org/>
- Unitarian Climate Elders: <https://eldersaction.org/>
- Greenfaith: <https://greenfaith.org>
- Citizens Climate Lobby: <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>
- Third Act: [www.thirdact.org](http://www.thirdact.org)
- Sunrise: <https://www.sunrisemovement.org/>
- Fridays for Future: <https://fridaysforfuture.org/>