

# Take Action!

## *Here are some simple ways to reduce our footprint on our Earth*



- ◆ *Cut down our dependence on plastic!!!*
- ◆ *Become a styrofoam-free church!*
- ◆ *Lower our water and energy use at home and at church.*
- ◆ *Protect native species and their habitat; work to stop the spread of invasive species*
- ◆ *Be informed and engaged on environmental issues.*
- ◆ *Voice our support for organizations, candidates and legislation that will help protect the earth.*

## *Reduce the demand for throw-away items*

- ◆ *Reuse things at home instead of buying new – this saves the resources to manufacture, transport, market, and recycle household goods. Will a good, used cardboard box work instead of a new plastic bin?*
- ◆ *Buy used items at thrift shops or trade with friends instead of creating a demand for new items.*
- ◆ *Choose products that minimize packaging and/or use paper or cardboard containers.*
- ◆ *Carry a good reusable travel mug!*
- ◆ *Buy or sew cloth shopping bags.*
- ◆ *If plastic containers can't be avoided, buy items sold in recyclable containers and be diligent in recycling them! Recyclable materials that don't get recycled are still trash!*
- ◆ *REFUSE! Tell clerks you don't need a bag! Tell restaurant wait staff you don't want a plastic straw, little plastic sauce cups, and styrofoam take-out boxes.*

## *Reuse*

- ◆ *Our possessions can have “9-lives!” Find ways to use things over and over, or pass them on to someone who can use them.*
- ◆ *Boxes, bags, and containers (regardless of what they are made of) should be reused until no longer servicable, and then recycled or repurposed.*

## *Recycle*

- ◆ *Most communities, towns and counties have recycling programs; many garbage companies also offer curbside recycling service.*
- ◆ *Many retail stores have bins to recycle shopping bags and even fishline.*

## *Don't let plastic escape to become litter!*

*Even in Wisconsin, our lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands can be littered with plastic drink containers, bait boxes, stray fishing line and shotgun shell cases. Plastic shopping bags blow across fields, woodlots and greenspaces, especially next door to shopping centers.*

- ◆ *Help prevent the spread of litter to our environment.*
- ◆ *Bring a litter bag and retrieve the trash whenever you enjoy the outdoors.*
- ◆ *Organize a litter-picking event or become an “Adopt a Highway” sponsor.*