

Quick Guide for Diocesan Teams Introducing and Engaging sustainislandhome.org

Introduction: [Role of Diocesan Teams for sustainislandhome.org](https://sustainislandhome.org)

Shepherding the introduction and use of the carbon tracker among households in the diocese is a primary role of the diocesan team.

Although sustainislandhome.org is an intuitive web-based platform for making household choices that mitigate the emissions of greenhouse gases - it is much more. By providing an Episcopal landing page as a portal to the carbon tracker, the site immediately greets the user with a message from the Presiding Bishop and their own bishop about why work on climate change is important. These landing page welcome letters also include links to Creation Care resources for the wider Episcopal Church.

Additionally on the landing page, the user also immediately sees data showing the aggregated impact of the choices Episcopalians in their diocese and in the wider Episcopal Church have made — for example, how much carbon is reduced per year, and how many actions have been taken to address climate change. Because the portal of the Episcopal landing page is connected so vividly to both the wider Church and the local — the role of the Church as an actor for climate solutions is aligned with the polity of the Episcopal Church; that is, a respect for individual choice while recognizing potential for action from our relationship to each other locally and globally.

This Quick Guide for Diocesan Teams describes steps for:

- Forming the diocesan teams
- Team role in introducing the tracker to the diocese
- Ongoing diocesan support, such as facilitating wider community engagement and improvements to the tracker

Quick Step 1: Forming Diocesan Teams

The team is called together by the bishop of the diocese, who personally demonstrates commitment to a sustainable life by using the tracker.

The diocesan tracker team will serve the diocese by helping introduce the tracker to church climate champions and church leadership, and by working with the bishop on messaging and integration of tracker use into the life of the diocese. That is, metrics from use of the tracker will give useful information about how churches are making a difference with climate change and identify gaps in resources of education.

The diocesan team will benefit from having 1-2 members of the diocesan staff who are focused on communications and/or formation, as well as a few volunteers who have an interest in environmental stewardship and the ability to work across the diocese through personal meetings, conference calls and/or [Zoom](#) meetings.

Diocesan team members will receive training by webinar in the steps for introducing the tracker to congregations and will have access to [web-based materials](#) for rolling out the tracker, including an annotated PowerPoint presentation, a Quick Guide for Introducing [sustainislandhome.org](#) to Congregations, FAQs, and a video demonstration of the tracker.

After the diocesan team has been called together and trained, the diocese would make an announcement about the bishop's commitment and forthcoming work by the team to introduce the tracker.

Quick Step 2: Rolling out Sustain Island Home to Congregations

The diocesan tracker team meets with the bishop to identify key opportunities for introducing the tracker—for example, identifying 6 or more environmentally conscious congregations for an “intro to tracker” seminar by the team with the bishop present, or identifying diocesan wide events (such as diocesan Annual Convention, Executive Council retreats, Deanery meetings, among others) for an intro seminar.

With the bishop, the diocesan team would plan diocesan-wide announcements of introductory events and “train the trainer” events. Presentations would be about 1 hour in duration, with 15 minutes of PowerPoint presentation, 15 minutes of demo, and remaining time to answer questions and hear how those attending would like to proceed.

The diocesan team would make presentations at churches, as personal schedules allow, and seek to welcome other “trainers” to the diocesan effort of introducing the tracker to congregations.

Quick Step 3: Ongoing Diocesan Support

Follow up to church rollouts

A diocesan team member checks back periodically with congregations that have had a rollout of the tracker to see how they're doing and to make sure any technical barriers are addressed. These check-ins are occasions for capturing success stories that can be featured in Diocesan-wide newsletters and/or gatherings like diocesan annual conventions.

Tips on how to engage out to community

The diocesan team can highlight in its initial training for church champions that the tracker presents excellent opportunities for engaging people in the wider community, outside church membership.

The carbon tracker is set up to operate within the local area of your household (city/county), while also linking your household with your congregation as a community group on the tracker.

This link connecting a congregation's work to the community creates the opportunity to inspire and engage others in the community and amplify the positive impact of our work. It can also provide a way to bring new members into our congregations.

One way to interact with others in the community is through the Action Discussion function, where users can post and help each other with resources and ideas on actions. The local site also often includes information on local activities happening in the community.

The tracker can also presents an opportunity to share the program with those outside the church community, such as groups that rent church space, or people who attend church sponsored lectures.

Feedback process

The diocesan core team's goal is to make the program easy to use and as impactful as possible! The diocesan core team should ask church champions for feedback or ideas on how to improve on any aspect of the program, from the site, to the materials, etc.! Occasionally, the developers of sustainislandhome.org will send out feedback forms; more information will be coming on this soon.