

CARING FOR CREATION NEWS

March 2010

The cork recycling program continues to be a steady success. Teresa Housel reports that we've recycled about 140 pounds of cork in the last year. She ships the cork to New Jersey's Terracycle, a company that GreenBiz.com calls one of the most creative in using recycled materials. Each shipment is contained in a box about the size of a microwave oven and weighs 40-45 pounds.

The recycling of household batteries continues its successful run. Peter Boogaart reports that last year our collection added up to 680 pounds. For what it's worth, AA seems to be the most popular size. Batteries Plus continues to be our local recycling partner. They support us at no cost and in the spirit of partnership; you may want to visit them at their Bay Park Drive location.

Four Hope Church families completed the Low Carbon Diet curriculum in February. Together we learned about ways to simplify our lives and use resources more effectively. This year the class featured an on-site home energy audit. The class material calls out those ways in which we are embedded in energy intensive systems and defines the choices available. In the end, it's not so much about rules as choice. It's you in the shower; your foot on the accelerator; and your hand on the thermostat—How you use those resources is up to you.

A word about faith: environmental discussion tends to drift off into data, worst case scenarios, and alternative behaviors. I'd like to suggest, however, that for people of faith, that isn't the right frame of reference. For us it's about grace. What do we mean when we say that our lives are lived in grateful response to God's love? What do we mean by living with joy? For us it's a question of whether or not our choices reflect our values. I don't believe in one-size-fits-all solutions; but I do think it's fair to ask, "Do your choices reflect your values?"

Peter Boogaart, Caring for Creation Coordinator