

Creation Care Committee
2024 Report & 2025 Budget Proposal

2024 Report (to-date)

The Diocese of Central PA's Creation Care Committee (DIOCPACCC) has a \$10,000 allocation for 2024. Our accomplishments to-date include:

- Authoring the first [Diocesan Creation Care Plan](#)¹ responding specifically to General Convention Resolution A087
- Funding of 3 parishes (to-date) to launch ready-to-implement creation care projects to fast-track the response to the climate crisis and enhance visibility of Creation Care throughout the Diocese
- Hosting the inaugural Conference of the Parishes (COP1) in April 2024
- Contracting with Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light to provide expert consultation, facilitation, and resources
- Earth Month Reflection Series on Social Media
- Updating of content on the Diocesan webpage Creation Care Resources
- Meeting monthly via Zoom and a hybrid retreat in June

We estimate that our committee has provided more than 150 hours of volunteer labor to-date in 2024.

2024 Approved Budget

1. Creation Care Project Distribution	\$5,000
2. Diocesan Creation Care Conference	\$2,000
3. Committee Development	\$1,000
4. Speakers/Expert Consultation	\$1,000
5. Education & Meeting Resources	\$1,000
Total Funding Distribution	\$5,000
Total Committee Expenses	\$5,000
Total Request	\$10,000

2024 Expenses

We have spent (or authorized to date):

1. Creation Care Project Distribution	\$1,900
2. Diocesan Creation Care Conference	\$2,000
3. Committee Development	\$58.09

¹ bit.ly/DraftCCPlan

4. Speakers/Expert Consultation	\$500
5. Education & Meeting Resources	\$0
Total Project Funding Distribution	\$1,900
Total Committee Expenses	\$2,558.09
Total Spent	\$4,458.09

2025 Budget Proposal

Vision Statement

The DIOPACCC aims to build on the 2024 success and enthusiasm in establishing and launching this new committee with the following 2025 goals:

1. Enhance funding to ready-to-implement creation care projects to fast-track the response to the climate crisis and enhance visibility of Creation Care throughout the Diocese
2. Organize and convene a Diocese-wide conference to develop a Diocesan Climate Action Plan
3. Establish and grow this work beyond initial volunteer seed efforts through funds for speakers/expert consultants, Committee development, and development of printed & digital resources for the Diocese

Proposed 2025 Budget

Description	Amount
1. Creation Care Project Distribution	\$5,000
2. Conference of the Parishes (COP) II	\$2,000
3. Committee Development	\$1,000
4. Speakers and Education Resources	\$2,000
5. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Project	\$20,000
Total Project Funding Distribution	\$5,000
Total Committee Expenses	\$25,000
Total Request	\$30,000

Description of Proposed 2025 Budget Line Items

1. Creation Care Project Distribution

Ask: We are requesting an amount of \$5,000 to distribute to parishes in the Diocese in 2025 in support of creation care projects.

Explain: The goal of distributing this funding is to address the biggest barrier we have encountered in hearing from folks across the Diocese looking to implement creation care practices: money. It is also intended to build relationships, share resources of knowledge and expertise to avoid common “project pitfalls”, and to create a more cohesive approach to reducing the carbon footprint of our Diocese while also forming land stewardship. Our committee has developed an internal process for reviewing distribution requests. [The request form can be viewed here.](#)

In 2024, we have received 3 requests to-date for a total of \$1,900. The projects include an innovative native tree fencing project, development of ongoing resources related to the implementation of a creation care festival, and support for securing a professional-grade energy audit. We continue to receive applications on a rolling basis with information displayed prominently on our webpage, inclusion in Diocesan communication channels, and ongoing outreach to parishes and convocations. In 2025, we would like to continue at the same level of funding to create stability in expectation. This will continue our ability to support ready-to-implement creation care projects to fast-track the response to the climate crisis and enhance visibility of Creation Care throughout the Diocese.

2. Diocesan Creation Care Conference

Ask: We are requesting \$2,000 to host Conference of the Parishes II Diocesan Creation Care Conference.

Explain: We want to host a follow up Conference of the Parishes (COP2) as a convening of decision-making parties in the Diocese along with vested parties to further develop the Diocesan Climate Action Plan. The funding would help cover the costs related to food, meeting space, and facilitators and educators. We may seek additional revenue through sponsorships. We intend to offer expertise and support to the Diocese of Bethlehem (with approval) to offer a similar program in 2025.

3. Committee Development

Ask: We are requesting \$1,000 for committee development.

Explain: A core part of our ability to do the work described above requires investment in our committee. This budget line will cover expenses associated with gathering in-person for retreat (food, drinks, meeting space) and ensuring the ongoing development of the committee’s leadership.

4. Speakers/Expert Consultation

Ask: We are requesting \$2,000 for speakers, educators, and/or expert consultants.

Explain: We are committed to providing education and resources, and want to be able to offer small honorariums in recognition of people's time and labor. This budget line will also cover any costs related to compilation, design, and printing of resources.

5. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Project

Ask: We are requesting \$20,000 to complete a simplified in scope Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory of DIOCPA facilities.

Explain: As part of the Drafted Diocesan Creation Care Plan, we identified a launch measure as the authorization of a comprehensive Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory (L2). We estimate the cost of a professional-level inventory of this type being a significant expense given the amount of data needed to collect from the significant number of buildings (120) in the Diocese. Our analysis is this may cost upwards of \$50,000.

To reduce the cost while maintaining value for strategic decision making, the committee recommends the following:

1. Complete a simplified Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory focused on building emissions. This work would utilize the framework developed by the [US Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)'s Simplified GHG Emissions Calculator](https://www.epa.gov/climateleadership/simplified-ghg-emissions-calculator)² and focus on the following Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3 Emissions (shown in **bold**):

Scope 1 Emissions	Scope 2 Emissions	Scope 3 Emissions
Stationary Combustion	Location-Based Purchased and Consumed Electricity	<i>Business Travel</i>
<i>Mobile Sources</i>	Location-Based Purchased and Consumed Steam	<i>Employee Commuting</i>
<i>Refrigeration / AC Equipment Use</i>	Market-Based Purchased and Consumed Electricity	<i>Upstream Transportation and Distribution</i>
<i>Fire Suppression</i>	Market-Based Purchased and Consumed Steam	<i>Waste</i>
<i>Purchased Gases</i>		

2. Complete this simplified scope of work in-house as a partnership between Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light (PA-IPL) and the DIOCPA Creation Care Committee (DIOCPACCC). Given the internal expertise of the committee and strong working relationship with Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light, completing this work as a partnership between these two entities provides the opportunity to significantly reduce the cost while still achieving a similar outcome.

² <https://www.epa.gov/climateleadership/simplified-ghg-emissions-calculator>

\$20,000 is the cost of this simplified scope of work and if completed as a partnership between DIOCPACCC and PA-IPL. In short, the funding would support outreach to parishes for data release, retrieval of data from utility providers, entry of data into assessment software, and provision of a report with recommendations for strategic decision making. A contract and formal scope of work would precede any dispersion of funds.

While this seems like a simple scope of work, it represents many hours of labor for data management given the approximately 120 buildings in the Diocese and an average of 2 utility accounts per building. It also requires significant subject matter expertise to evaluate and manage data quality and completeness. We are confident we are able to provide this given Sarah Klinetob Lowe's experience in building energy data collection & analysis and Katie Ruth's credentials in project and staff management.

While not as comprehensive as the initial scope proposed, this simplified scope of work will provide enough data to support our goals of responding to Resolution A087 as outlined in the draft Diocesan Creation Care Plan with a reduced investment of resources into data collection. The collection of this data prior to the presentation of a 2025 resolution will strengthen the action plan, allow for the closer identification of other sources of financial support, and demonstrate the impact of this work while positioning the Diocese as willing to take an investment step in supporting smaller parishes in this work. This adjusted timeline will also allow for the integration of several anticipated resolutions from General Convention 2024. We intend to make a similar proposal to the Diocese of Bethlehem (with approval) which would allow for a seamless integration of creation care focused ministry in reunification.