

## **FGCMD Healthy Planet Pledge for Garden Clubs**

**Take the FGCMD Healthy Planet Pledge!** To improve the health of our planet, FGCMD challenges each of its member clubs to sign the Healthy Planet Pledge. We believe it is our duty and responsibility to recognize the dangers of global climate change, habitat loss, and loss of biodiversity in our world. We all have a role to play and a responsibility to our children and future generations to help our world return to a state of sustainable prosperity. Let us collectively support the global community to take action NOW. Together we can make real and lasting changes for the health and beauty of our communities, state, nation and world. Action examples of things your Club can do are included on the next page.

### **WE PLEDGE TO:**

**Adopt** good gardening and environmentally sound practices, recognizing that small changes in our club's activities can help improve the world around us.

**Educate** and encourage others to implement good gardening and environmentally sound practices.

**Inform** and educate ourselves on current climate related issues and the choices we have.

**Reduce** fossil fuel use, conserve water, limit the use of non recyclable consumer products or products that are harmful to the environment.

**Minimize** habitat destruction, improve existing habitats and increase wild spaces in our community.

**Promote** native tree and shrub plantings, or the addition of pollinator gardens or meadows in place of lawns, throughout our community.

The time for action is now. The need for change is great, and together we can all contribute in small ways that combine to make a lasting impact in halting global climate change and loss of biodiversity. We owe it to future generations and all of our planet's inhabitants to do our part for a more sustainably healthy Earth.

We pledge my support for a healthier world!

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Club President Signature

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Date

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Garden Club

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District

## **Action Examples:**

**Adopt** good gardening and environmentally sound practices, recognizing that small changes in our club can help improve the world around us.

- Experiment with alternatives to Oasis: Agra-wool, flower frogs, chicken wire.
- Promote and prioritize using seasonal flowers into floral designs to reduce the carbon footprint of purchasing exotic / out of season flowers.
- Purchase locally grown flowers for Club projects, activities and events.
- Utilize compostable products whenever possible, to avoid adding non-biodegradable products to our landfills.

**Educate** and encourage others to implement good gardening and environmentally sound practices.

- Share advice, tips and reports on successful projects on social media; take part in community outreach through a school or library; donate relevant books to your library.
- Use our Clubs as examples of best practices.

**Inform** and educate ourselves on current climate related issues and make educated choices.

- Follow our Climate Action Committee, as well as your Conservation, Horticulture, and Civic Improvement Chairs for guidance on important environmental issues and information on how local politicians have voiced their opinions on an issue.
- Advocate for change as a Club - power in numbers.

**Reduce** fossil fuel use, conserve water, limit the use of non recyclable consumer products or products that are harmful to the environment

- Avoid single use plastics whenever possible, and reduce their use at Club events.
- Use reusable bags.
- Plant drought resistant native plants in public spaces to reduce the need for water.
- Carpool to meetings whenever possible.

**Minimize** habitat destruction, improve existing habitats and increase wild spaces in my community.

- Remove invasive plants; delay garden clean-ups until spring.
- Evaluate your Club's community projects and how they can become more environmentally sound.

**Promote** native tree and shrub plantings, and swapping lawns with pollinator gardens or meadows.

- Help design and install new native gardens or woodland areas in your community. Shrink the lawn in public spaces.

**Plant** food and nectar sources for beneficial insects.

- When planning a public garden space, select native perennials, shrubs and trees, include spring ephemeral bulbs for early emerging bee species, as well as late bloomers such as asters. Provide food sources for all seasons - shrubs with fruits or berries are ideal.

**Provide** a clean water source for wildlife.

- Incorporate a water feature or birdbath in public projects whenever possible.

There are many other actions you can take to improve the health of our planet. Feel free to list them here:

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