




Care of Creation with the Sound to Sea Program at Trinity Center

With Mindy Furrer
Education Director
Trinity Center

An Episcopal Vision for Creation Care



As a whole church, we have promised to place the care of God's Creation at the heart of our common life. Together, we have taken up church-wide action in order to safeguard the integrity of Creation and to sustain and renew the life of the Earth.

*Developed by the Presiding Bishop's Office and leaders of the Advisory Council on Stewardship of Creation and in alignment with actions by the 79th General Convention

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/creation-care/>

What is Sound to Sea?

- The Sound to Sea Environmental Education Program at Trinity Center is a secular program offered to school groups, church youth groups, adult learners and more.
- Sound to Sea strives to meet the goals of stewardship and care of creation of the Episcopal Church who owns and operates the land we use to teach.

Goal #1: Loving

Create and sustain a network of Episcopalians dedicated to the care and protection of the whole Creation, especially by providing grants and cultivating circles for Story Sharing among practitioners in local and regional ministries.

- Introduce new staff position with special attention to Care of Creation
- Continue Care of Creation Grants program (A013, A008)
- Facilitate development of networks of practitioners, by state and/or affinity (A008)
- Link with StorySharing work like Beloved Community StorySharing Project, Called to Transformation, and Climate Reality to **prepare to share stories of our love for God and Creation**

Goal #1 Loving



Cultivate circles for
Story Sharing among practitioners in
local and regional ministries...
Prepare to share stories of our love
for God and Creation



Goal #2 Liberating

Stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable victims of the impact of climate change – particularly women, poor people, and people of color – as part of seeking the liberation and flourishing of all God's people

- Develop 2-3 eco-justice sites where the church invests significant energy and resources
- Oppose environmental racism, sexism, classism (A011, B027)
- Support advocacy and governmental engagement via the Office of Governmental Relations, the Episcopal Public Policy Network, and participation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Conference of Parties (A018, C008)
- **Advocate to protect vulnerable people/lands/species, especially in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Resolution X023)**
- Inhibit exploitative extraction practices (A011)



Goal #2 Liberating

Advocate to protect vulnerable
people/lands/species,
especially in the Arctic National
Wildlife Refuge



Perishing Polar Bears



Goal #3 Life Giving

Set climate mitigation benchmarks as individuals and as a church, in order to live more simply, humbly, and gently on the Earth.

- Develop, curate and distribute formation resources to support Episcopalians who wish to commit to simple, humble, gentle living on the Earth
- Support use of the carbon tracker.
- **Promote conscious food decisions and local, sustainable agriculture (C049)**
- Support use of the carbon tax and carbon offsets (A014, C020)
- Ask diocesan officials to track energy use as part of the parochial report, and promote energy and water efficiency across the church (C039, A213)
- Adopt the Paris Accord at state, regional and local levels (A010)
- **Work toward regenerative agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and habitat restoration (D053)**
- Help communities to transition to clean energy economies and encourage stewardship of creation with church-owned lands (D081, D053)
- **Promote ocean health and phase out use of bottled water in church-related facilities (C063)**
- Incentivize renewable energy and track fossil fuel divestment/reinvestment (A020, C021)



Goal #3 Life Giving

**Promote conscious food decisions
and local, sustainable agriculture**

The Ort Report



The Ort Report



The Ort Report



The Ort Report



The Ort Report





Goal #3 Life Giving

**Work toward regenerative
agriculture, Biodiversity
conservation, and habitat
restoration**

Sanders Point



In 2013 Sanders Point was showing signs of disrepair due to countless hurricanes and nor'easters



With a grant from the Coastal Federation we were able to begin restoring this important habitat

Sanders Point



In January of 2014 we began building the oyster sill that would help stop erosion at Sanders Point

Sanders Point



Part one is completed!

Sanders Point



In June of 2014 a second planting of cord grass was completed by the Sound to Sea staff

Sanders Point



In April of 2016 the Coastal Federation provided another grant for marsh grass planting

Sanders Point



2013



Today

Sanders Point





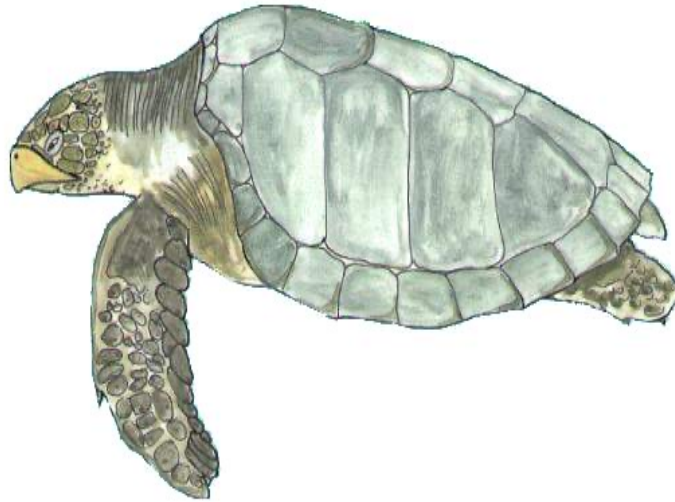
Goal #3 Life Giving

Promote ocean health and phase out use
of bottled water in church-related
facilities

Turtle Talk

- 5 Species in NC waters
- Nesting
- Summer Conservation Effort
- How you can make a difference





Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle *(Lepidochelys kempii)*

Distinguishing Features: Gray carapace, yellowish plastron, hatchlings are nearly black all over, and single claw on each flipper.

Maximum Lifespan: Estimated at 50 or more years (Maturity at 15 years)

Shell Length: 2-2 ½ feet

Weight: 75-100 lbs

Diet: Crustaceans and mollusks

Predators: For eggs and hatchlings—small mammals, raptors, insects, dogs, and crabs
For adults—sharks

Threats: Fisheries impacts, habitat modification, turtle harvesting, egg harvesting, oil spills and pollution and artificial lighting.

Status: Critically endangered (worldwide)

Hawksbill Sea Turtle

(*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

Distinguishing Features: Narrow face with bird-like beak, tortoise shell pattern, rear end of shell is serrated, scutes are overlapping, and usually two claws on each flipper.

Maximum Lifespan: 30-50 years (Reach maturity at 20 years)

Shell Length: 2-3 feet

Weight: 100-150 lbs

Diet: Sponges

Predators: For eggs and hatchlings—small mammals, sea birds and herons, insects, dogs, monitor lizards, and crabs

For adults—sharks and crocodiles

Threats: Fisheries impacts, habitat modification, turtle harvesting for shell products, egg harvesting, feral/exotic animals, and artificial lighting.

Status: Critically endangered (worldwide)



Green Sea Turtle

(*Chelonia mydas*)

Distinguishing Features: Brown to black carapace, yellowish plastron, single claw on each flipper, 13 scutes that are non-overlapping.

Maximum Lifespan: Estimated at 80 years (Reach maturity at 25-50 years)

Shell Length: 3-4 feet

Weight: 200-500 lbs

Diet: Seagrass

Predators: For eggs and hatchlings—small mammals, insects, raptors, dogs, and crabs

For juveniles—seabirds, sharks, and predatory fish

For adults—crocodiles and sharks

Threats: Fisheries impacts, egg harvesting, artificial lighting, habitat modification, turtle harvesting, disease, and human interaction

Status: Endangered (worldwide)

Fast Fact: Green sea turtles are the only herbivorous sea turtle. The name “Green” sea turtle comes from the tint of their internal fat, which is thought to be green due to the pigments of the plants they eat.



Loggerhead Sea Turtle

(*Caretta caretta*)

Distinguishing Features: Large head, heart-shaped/reddish brown carapace, creamy yellow plastron, carapace is thickest at the posterior end, and has two claws per flipper.

Maximum Lifespan: At least 30, up to 50+ years (Reach maturity at 20-30 years)

Shell Length: 3-4 feet

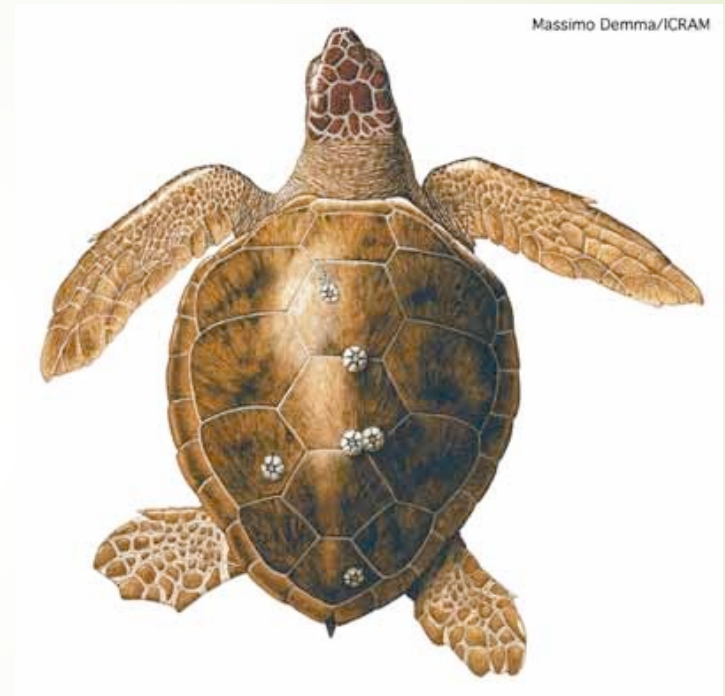
Weight: 250-400 lbs

Diet: Crustaceans and mollusks

Predators: For eggs and hatchlings—small mammals, raptors, sea birds, insects, monitor lizards, and crabs
For adults—sharks

Threats: Fisheries impacts, habitat modification, turtle harvesting, egg harvesting, and artificial lighting.

Status: Endangered (worldwide)



Leatherback Sea Turtle

(*Dermochelys coriacea*)

Distinguishing Features: Humongous! Leathery carapace that is elongated with 7 narrow ridges running down its entire length, white-ish plastron with 6 longitudinal ridges, and no claws on their elongated, paddle-like flippers.

Maximum Lifespan: Estimated at 50+ years (Reach maturity at 15-?? years)

Shell Length: Females average 5-6 feet. Males can exceed 9+ feet in length

Weight: 550-2000 lbs

Diet: Jellyfish

Predators: For eggs and hatchlings—small mammals, herons, insects, dogs, monitor lizards, and crabs
For adults—sharks and killer whales

Threats: Fisheries impacts, habitat modification, egg harvesting, feral animals, and artificial lighting.

Status: Critically endangered (worldwide)















This conservation work for protected sea turtles in Pine Knoll Shores is authorized by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission (ES Permit 21ST07)



Goal #3 Life Giving

**Encourage stewardship of creation with
Church owned lands**



❖ Youth Groups

❖ www.trinityctr.org/day-program-offerings



Adult Programs & Intergenerational Programs

- Barrier Island Ecology
- Birding and Birds of Prey
- Beach Walk Turtle Talk
- Group Team Building and Challenge Course
- Sound Exploration
- Whales and Whalers

