

One Woman Makes a Difference for God's Creation!

Julie Jacobson Vann of Chapel Hill North Carolina, a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is reducing her carbon footprint by over **7860 lbs of CO2 per year!**

How does she do it? She has installed 30 CFL light bulbs and never uses air conditioning colder than 84 degrees. In addition, she uses canvas bags for all shopping, uses a motorless lawnmower and edger, washes her clothes in cold water only and purchases locally grown organic food. She avoids products that come with a high carbon price tag like foods wrapped in plastic or Styrofoam and bottled water.

Julie is also a leader in her congregation, encouraging her church to answer the call to care for God's Creation. In describing her work in her congregation, she said, "I developed lots of environmental tips for the bulletin & website for about 2 years. I bought 100 canvas grocery bags with the ELCA church logo for members."

Julie has been interested in environmental issues for decades. In 1990 she received her PhD in the School of Public Health. She ran the CDC's Birth Defects Risk Factor Surveillance Study for 3 year. According to Julie, "While working there, I became increasingly concerned about all of the toxic chemicals in our environment, especially pesticides." This summer she hopes to spend her time and talents helping other to reduce their pesticide use.