



EARTH CARE @LEWINSVILLE

ECO-PALMS at LEWINSVILLE

Lewinsville demonstrates its commitment to earth care and social justice by purchasing Eco-Palms for our Palm Sunday observances. What are they, and why is our choice important?

Approximately 300 million palm fronds are consumed annually in the United States alone. Most come from rainforests regions of Mexico and Central America. Conventional harvest-ing methods compensate low-paid workers for the number of palms they cut, not the quality, or the care they take in harvesting. This leads to overcutting, which damages the trees and threatens their long-term sustainability. Local communities profit little from the industry because the palms are transported by middlemen to other locations to be processed and packaged for export.



[The Ecopalms project](#) was begun in 2005 at the University of Minnesota to provide churches with environmentally friendly, “fair trade” palms. The Presbyterian Church (USA) was among the first denominations to team up with the Ecopalms project. Ecopalms partners with communities in Guatemala and Mexico where workers commit to tending palm forests using sustainable practices. Workers are paid a decent wage, and the sorting and processing of the palms occurs in the local communities. Because the palms need the shade of the rain forest to grow, supporting the efforts of these communities also protects the surrounding rain forest, which might otherwise be cleared for agricultural fields.

Our continued support of the communities affiliated with the Ecopalms project is more important than ever in this time of global economic hardship stemming from the pandemic. Thank you, Lewinsville!

-- [From the March 2021 Newsletter](#)