

**EVERGREEN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
GREEN SANCTUARY ACTION PLAN JUNE, 2009**

INTRODUCTION

Evergreen Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (EUUF) undertook the task of developing a Green Sanctuary Program in September, 2008 when the Board of Trustees approved the formation of the Green Sanctuary Task Force and its Committee Charter and charged it with the responsibility for organizing and promulgating a Plan of Action to qualify for certification by the UUA as a Green Sanctuary.

The Green Team Steering Committee of the Green Sanctuary Task Force (Green Team) meets monthly on the first Sunday of the month.

The Green Team conducted an Environmental Audit of the building, including an audit by the Public Utility District. The Audit identified areas of improvement for energy conservation throughout the building and in EUUF's administrative practices.

A survey of the Ecological Footprint of the EUUF membership with 45% of the surveys returned resulted in the top twenty sustainable practices the membership identified as items they were interested in learning more about, or were willing to try.

The Green Team compiled the results of the Audit and Surveys and developed a plan of action to meet the criteria as listed in the Green Sanctuary Manual in order to apply for Green Sanctuary Program certification status. One of the goals of the Plan was to ensure that green practices and program activities were incorporated throughout all the activities, committees, policies and procedures of the Fellowship and that it was not just a matter of a few committee members carrying the load of the work, but instead an all inclusive program that becomes part of the everyday conversation, work and play of the Fellowship members, visitors and guests.

The Environmental Audit and Membership Ecological Footprint Survey will be conducted in January of each year to evaluate progress of established “green” activities and to identify areas of improvement, education and action.

COMMUNICATION PLAN

Green Sanctuary Information and Resource Table at Social Hour

Maintain an information table and Kiosk in Beaman Hall with current information and resources for sustainable living practices available to the Fellowship during the coffee hour on Sundays following the worship service.

Timeline for Completion: Established Fall, 2008. Goal is to expand the size of the table and to highlight a “green” practice once a month, e. g. display of green household cleaners, and have available a member of the Green Team at the table to be available for discussion and information during the coffee hour.

Green Tidbits Column in Monthly Newsletter/Web Page

Publish a monthly column in the EUUF newsletter/web page highlighting a topic of a sustainable practice and/or principle.

Timeline for Completion: Established Fall, 2008 and to continue.

Practical Advice Column for Green Practices and Resources

Publish a practical advice section on various energy conservation and sustainable living practices monthly in the EUUF Newsletter/web page.

Timeline for Completion: Established Fall, 2008 and to continue

Green Team Meeting Minutes

Make available to the Board, Minister and Membership, minutes of the monthly Green Team meeting.

Timeline for Completion: Established Fall, 2008; to continue.

“ForeverGreen” theme at Stewardship Pledge and Participation of Hours Pledge Campaign, 2009-2010.

Green Team and Green Sanctuary volunteer opportunities were listed and discussed at the annual Stewardship campaign. The results of the membership Ecological survey was discussed and the potluck discussion theme was an exchange of ideas of current green practices at home.

Timeline for Completion: Stewardship potlucks were conducted through the month of April, 2009.

In-house Publicity of Green Sanctuary Program Activities

Use the Order of Service Calendar Inserts, email newsletter and Sunday service announcements to make the membership aware of upcoming events related to sustainable practices and activities of the Green Sanctuary Program.

Timeline for Completion: Established, Fall, 2008 and will continue.

Public Relations within local community outside the Fellowship

The community at large in the local region will be invited to various educational and activity programs at EUUF via advertising in local newspapers, flyers, posters, community radio station and inserts in the newsletters of other like organizations.

Timeline for Completion: Established Spring, 2009 with announcement on local community owned radio station and will continue as events are planned.

Road Side Clean Up Campaign

EUUF volunteers will periodically clean up litter on a section of heavily traveled road less than one mile from the Evergreen building. A sign is posted to designate that Evergreen Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is taking responsibility for maintaining this area (parallel to a wetlands) and keep it free of litter.

Timeline for Completion: Project begun Spring, 2009 and will continue indefinitely.

Lead: Christine Harper, Committee on Ministries

Partnerships

The Green Team partners with groups, programs or agencies to accomplish the goals of meeting the criteria for Environmental Justice and other associated activities. Contacts have already been established with the following:

Marysville Food Bank, Interfaith Family Shelter, Cocoon House, Washington State University Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program, Everett Tilth, Edmonds UU Church, Foundation for Sustainable Communities and other faith-based organizations in the Snohomish County region.

WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION: TWO REQUIRED**Project 1: A Series of Sermons throughout the year focusing on Environmental Issues and Sustainable Living Practices (Adult Activity)**

Timeline for Completion: Established prior to 2007. A number of worship services have been presented to address the issues of sustainable practices and living the seventh tradition. Worship Services planned for the future include the following:

Fall, 2009: "The Great Turning" A focus in three Sundays on the elements of this great turning of our World Culture, including the disasters and hopes for healing our Earth environment.

Winter, 2009: "Greening of Evergreen" A pre-holiday service that focuses on how we as individuals and Fellowship are moving closer to that lofty goal of green.

Spring, 2010: “Earth Day” Everyday is Earth Day. What we do is based on our thoughts and desires. It’s urgent that we learn to redirect those thoughts and desires in ways that are environmentally friendly.

Lead: Reverend Bruce Davis

Summer, 2009: A lay-lead summer service focusing on Voluntary Simplicity.

Lead: Barb Morrow (Green Team)

Project 2: Council of All Beings (Intergenerational Activity)

The Council of All Beings meets annually. Adults and children dress in costumes as a Being of the Earth and speak for the animals, vegetables and minerals who cannot speak for themselves, addressing the pressing environmental issues of our times.

Timeline for Completion: Established spring 2007 with plans to be continued annually.

Lead: Pam Gerke, Director of Lifelong Learning

Project 3: Covenant Circles (Adult Activity)

Covenant Circle discussions will focus on personal and community choices for sustainable living. “What can each of us do differently”? Based on the “Study Circle” idea presented by the green writer, Cecile Andrews.

Timeline for Completion: One session in each quarter beginning September, 2009 and to continue through Spring 2010.

Lead: Reverend Bruce Davis and Penny Shively

Project 4: Solstice and Equinox Celebrations (Intergenerational Activity)

Celebrations of the natural cycles of Earth’s turning are conducted, inviting participants (adults and children) to both plan and celebrate the value of sustaining and protecting our Mother Earth.

Timeline for Completion: Solstice celebrations in December and June are conducted independent of Sunday services. The first Spring Equinox celebration was conducted

March, 2009 with plans to continue and include the Fall Equinox celebration in Fall, 2009

Lead: Pam Gerke

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: TWO REQUIRED : ONE FOR CHILDREN, ONE FOR ADULTS

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Project 1: K1 and 2nd-3rd Grades: Conservation of Energy

These classes will complete projects once every one to two months, culminating with a special project in the spring of 2010. The projects will center around studying conservation of energy, water and will be based on scientific inquiry using resources from the county Public Utilities District and other sources.

Timeline for Completion: Fall 2009 through Spring 2010

Lead: Pam Gerke, Lifelong Learning Director

Project 2: 4th and 5th Grades: The Web of Life

The fourth and fifth grade class will study a curriculum designed by Gabriele Bartholomew, "The Web of Life," which is about how we are connected to our community, all beings on earth and to our environment.

Timeline for Completion: Fall 2009 through Spring 2011

Lead: Gabriele Bartholomew, Pam Gerke

Project 3: Middle School and High School Youth: Ethical Eating & Environmental Justice

This group will study "Ethical Eating: Food & Environmental Justice," a curriculum designed by Scott Wessel-Estes adapted from the UUA Association of Congregational Study/Action Resource Guide.

Timeline for Completion: Fall 2009 through Spring 2010

Lead: Scott Wessel-Estes

INTERGENERATIONAL EDUCATION**Project 4: Healthy Children, Healthy Planet**

Parents' Gathering is an ongoing monthly group that focuses on resources and skills on parenting children in these challenging times. The group will focus discussions on the Northwest Earth Institute Program discussion Course "Healthy Children/Healthy Planet."

Timeline for Completion: September, 2009 through May, 2010.

Lead: Pam Gerke

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult education at EUUF is composed of both ongoing drop-in groups that meet on a monthly basis, and programming developed as specific classes offered during the two program cycles: Fall/Winter: September through January, and Spring: February through June.

Project 1: Sustainable Living Education

The category of Sustainable Living will be part of the Adult Program curriculum. Since Spring, 2008 the following Northwest Earth Institute discussion workshops have been presented: Global Warming in Spring, 2008, Choices for Sustainable Living, Fall, 2008, EUUF GREEN SANCTUARY ACTION PLAN, JUNE 2009

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and Menu for the Future, Spring, 2009. Each program cycle will offer a workshop chosen from a variety of resources, including Northwest Earth Institute, UU Ministry for Earth, UUA, and others.

Timeline for Completion: Program was begun in Spring, 2008 and will continue presenting one workshop on sustainable living practices twice yearly.

Lead: Marijo Duprey, Barb Morrow

Project 2: Voluntary Simplicity Study Circles

Two Voluntary Simplicity study circles will be initiated using the study circle model of Cecile

Andrews, local author of Circle of Simplicity.

Timeline for Completion: The circle will be established in Fall, 2009 and continue monthly.

Lead: Barb Morrow, Jim Anderson

SUSTAINABLE LIVING: FOUR REQUIRED, INCLUDING ONE THAT ADDRESSES ENERGY CONSERVATION

Project 1: Retrofit of Evergreen Building for Energy Conservation

A change to the Fellowship Policies and Procedures is proposed to reflect the incorporation of green, sustainable practices to all aspects of policies and procedures of the work of the Fellowship and maintenance of the building and grounds.

Action Taken As Result of PUD Audit

The Snohomish County Public Utility District (PUD) conducted an environmental audit in Spring, 2008. During the audit, the PUD auditor and Green Team member adjusted two items that have resulted in lower utility costs: the thermostat on the water heater in the kitchen was adjusted from 135 to 110 degrees; the programmable thermostat in the Sanctuary had been “unprogrammed” during a power outage and was reprogrammed.

Timeline for Completion: Spring, 2009

Lead: Michelle Valentine

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Replacement of all Overhead Lights with more Energy Efficient Lighting

The Building and Grounds committee is currently planning the replacement of all ceiling lighting with energy efficient fluorescent bulbs in order to qualify for a rebate program offered by the PUD.

Timeline for Completion: Project to begin before end of year 2009 and to be completed within the timeline designated by PUD in order to qualify for the 93% rebate on materials.

Lead: Dave Thompson, Michelle Valentine.

Evergreen Green Wall of Fame

An Evergreen Green Wall of Fame will be posted in Beaman Hall with a list of all individual items and work projects that are recommended for replacement or upgrade. Fellowship members are invited to “sponsor” an item or work project, taking on the cost and activities required (for example: one person can sponsor the purchase of one light bulb, or more than one can share sponsorship; a Covenant Circle and other Circle groups can sponsor a work project, etc.). This will provide the opportunity for both education of the Fellowship on building energy conservation, and upgrading the building that enables all Fellowship members to have meaningful participation regardless of ability to pay or to perform tasks. The building retrofit will be an ongoing activity with monthly communication updates in the Newsletters as projects are completed, and use of the communication tools to maintain a high level of visibility for project needs.

Timeline for Completion: Project to begin 2009 and continue until retrofit is completed.

Lead: Dave Thompson, Michelle Valentine

Project 2: Recycling Program

Circle groups (Covenant Circles, Men’s Circle, Women’s Circle, Voluntary Simplicity Circle, etc.) will be asked to rotate responsibility for the building Recycling Program. For a period of one month for each group, the task of maintaining recycling bins and taking recycling to the collection stations will be the responsibility of the group that has signed up for a specific month. The Building and Grounds committee will assess current need for and

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provide clearly marked recycling bins throughout the building and make available the policy and procedures for collecting and disposing of recycled materials.

Lead: Building and Grounds Committee, Michelle Valentine

A basket is provided on the Green Sanctuary Kiosk Communication/Resource table in Beaman Hall for the continued collection and disposal of used CFL bulbs and batteries. When full, the basket will be taken by a member of the Green Team to the local Hazardous Waste Disposal site for safe disposal then returned to the table for more opportunities for collection.

Timeline for Completion: Project to begin 2009 and continue indefinitely.

Lead: Barb Morrow, Michelle Valentine

Project 3: Cleaning Materials and Grounds Maintenance, Use of Paper and Administrative Practices

The Environmental Audit recommended changes in use of paper in the front office. The following has been completed: 1) change from printing the Order of Service cover in color to black and white; 2) commitment to use 100% post consumer recycled paper; 3) print on both side of sheets; 4) conversion from a mailed paper version of the newsletter to a web based online version as the predominant publishing choice for dissemination of the newsletter and biannual Program Guide, with the printed/mailed version offered by request.

Timeline for Completion: Change-over to black and white printing and other paper saving practices began in Fall, 2008 and will continue indefinitely.

Lead: EUUF Administrator and Bruce Davis

The Custodian will purchase and use “green” environmentally friendly cleaning products. The groundskeepers will purchase and use organic, environmentally sustainable products and practices to maintain planted materials on EUUF property.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing practice to be reviewed Spring, 2009 and continued indefinitely.

Lead: Dave Thompson (Building and Grounds Committee)

Project 4: Ethical Eating Communication and Education

Communication and education about the value of growing and eating local organic produce will be presented using the Communication tools in place, in educational programs at all levels of Lifelong Learning and during various worship and celebration activities.

A databank of “expertise” within the Fellowship, as well as outside local resources on all aspects of gardening will be developed and maintained and made available at the Green Sanctuary Kiosk table for use by the gardeners.

Community Gardens

Members have offered land for use by the Fellowship to develop community “grow your groceries” gardens. To date, two gardens have been identified, with at least three gardening families participating in each. An orientation meeting was held on April 25, 2009 to educate about community gardens and have the gardeners meet as project groups to begin planning their respective community gardens. Gardeners will work in consultation with Washington State University Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners, Everett Tilth and Foundation for Sustainable Communities to develop and maintain organic gardens for the dual purpose of growing groceries for individual family use and donating a percentage of the harvest to the local Food Bank. Workshops will be offered throughout the year on gardening, composting, food handling, food preparation and preserving the harvest for the winter.

Evergreen Farmers Market

Those members in the Fellowship who have private home gardens will be given the opportunity to bring a portion of their harvest to Evergreen on Sundays to be offered for sale to the Fellowship with the cash proceeds and unsold produce donated to the local food bank and “soup kitchens.”

Partnerships

A representative of the Green Team will be an active participant as a liaison of EUUF with other faith-based and non faith-based organizations in Snohomish County whose common

goal is to promote community gardens throughout the county.

Timeline for Completion: Project was begun Spring 2009 with the goal to establish the full program within two years.

Lead: Barb Morrow, Wendy McClure, Alona Chatburn (Marysville Food Bank)

Project 5: Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

Fellowship members who will not be active in gardening will be given the opportunity to participate in local CSAs, purchasing food organically grown by local farmers for weekly delivery.

Timeline for Completion: To begin Spring 2009 and offered to the Fellowship each growing season.

Lead: Barb Morrow

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: TWO REQUIRED; ONE LONG TERM THAT ACTIVELY PROMOTES JUSTICE FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICES AND CREATES RELATIONSHIPS

Project 1: Interfaith Family Shelter Garden

EUUF has an established relationship with the Interfaith Family Shelter in Everett, WA with financial support, volunteers providing a cooked meal to the residents monthly, and

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volunteer shelter hosts to relieve the overnight staff on scheduled evenings. EUUF will provide volunteers and organizational coordination to the established garden at the Interfaith Family Shelter in Everett. The garden was established eight years ago by a Master Gardener from the Edmonds UU Church, and organizational coordination will be transferred to EUUF. Volunteers from the Edmonds church will teach food handling and preparation and menu planning to the shelter residents. Master Gardener interns will be scheduled to work in the garden along with volunteers from EUUF who will engage the shelter residents to participate in gardening and discussions about “ethical eating.” Periodically, volunteers from EUUF will teach food preservation and canning to the shelter residents. EUUF volunteers

will initiate the plan for a Children's Garden at the Shelter with the goal to engage children in learning the value of eating healthy, locally grown produce.

Timeline for Completion: Project began Spring, 2009 and will continue for a minimum of two years.

Lead: Barb Morrow, Heather Harris

Project 2: Cocoon House Garden and Farmers Market Booth

The Cocoon House is a long-term shelter for homeless teenagers. The Cocoon House kitchen manager, Zach Marl, has developed five raised garden beds for organically grown produce. A representative from the Green Team will work with Zach to coordinate educational programs about ethical eating and teach gardening skills, food preparation, menu planning and food preservation to the adolescents. Volunteers will work with the Cocoon House staff assisting the adolescents to both learn business skills and to collect revenue for support of the shelter by selling some of the garden produce once a week at a local Farmers' Market.

Timeline for Completion: Project began Spring, 2009 and will continue for a minimum of two years.

Lead: Barb Morrow, Dave Speights

Project 3: Financial Support for Local Environmental Justice Groups

The Green Team will identify local groups or programs whose activities are focused on environmental justice to accept a split plate offering. A representative from the receiving group or program will be invited to speak about their activities to the Fellowship during the split plate worship service.

Timeline for Completion: First group, Foundation for Sustainable Communities was awarded the split plate offering of April 19, 2009. Offerings will be made to a designated group once in the Fall/Winter year and once in the Spring.

Lead: Teresa Rugg, Barb Morrow

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS

1) All costs related to the Green Sanctuary program will be incorporated as an integrated part of the budgeted costs for programming and administration of EUUF or as costs offered as donations by individual members independent of the Fellowship budget, with the following exception:

Approval to allocate \$100.00 from the 2010 budget for the application fee to apply for Certification as a Green Sanctuary by the UUA Association of Congregations.

2) Establishment of a Policy and Procedure to reflect the incorporation of green, sustainable practices in all aspects of the policies, procedures and practices of the work of the Fellowship and maintenance of the building and grounds.

3) Establishment of a Policy and Procedure that reflects permanent status of a Green Sanctuary Task Force with a designated Board Liaison, responsible for maintaining the Green Sanctuary certification.

This Plan of Action, the Policy and Procedure changes and the \$100.00 application fee for consideration for certification as a Green Sanctuary by the UUA Association of Congregations is approved by the Board of Trustees of Evergreen Unitarian Universalist Fellowship:

Date

Kathy Craven, President Board of Trustees

Application for certification as a Green Sanctuary will be presented to the EUUF Fellowship for final approval at the Annual Fellowship Meeting on June 14, 2009.

COVENANT OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION 16
GREEN SANCTUARY PROJECT

WE THE UNDERSIGNED,

Recognizing the fragile and interdependent state of our Earth and all living things;
Recognizing the need to protect and maintain the quality of our common life-giving natural resources such as water, soil and air;
Recognizing the need to join with others to bring forth a sustainable society based on respect for our planet and all its life-giving resources; and
Recognizing our universal human rights to a clean environment:

DO THEREFORE DECLARE

To one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations, our acceptance of responsibility for preserving and protecting the health, vitality, beauty, and diversity of this planet Earth.

TO THIS END

As members of the Unitarian Universalists Congregation and participants in the Green Sanctuary Project, we pledge our encouragement to one another in a personal and congregational commitment to living this promise through our Unitarian Universalist Principles, including the Seventh Principle: “Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” In addition to specific projects and activities, we make the following commitments:

We incorporate Seventh Principle values and practices into our worship services, celebrations and religious education programs;

We live lightly on the Earth and strive to continually improve our environmental impact;

We support efforts to improve the quality of our watershed; and

We affirm and promote programs to raise the awareness of human behaviors that affect health and sustainability of the living Earth.

The Green Sanctuary Task Force of the Evergreen Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (EUUF), in consideration of our Seventh Principle, was established in 2008 to pursue Green Sanctuary certification. The Task Force, also known as the Green Team, shall upon approval by the Board of Trustees and the EUUF congregation become a permanent body, with a Board of Trustees Liaison Responsible for maintaining the Green Sanctuary certification. The Green Team, which is open to all members of the congregation, shall be responsible for promoting an awareness of the environmental impact of all of the congregation's actions and for encouraging the making of choices that are environmentally sustainable.

Evergreen Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Sustainable Practices Policy

Out of respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, we the members of the EUUF pledge to consider the incorporation of environmentally sustainable practices into all areas of congregational life, including but not limited to, the maintenance of our building and grounds and our activities therein. Therefore, when considering any actions to be taken, from the purchasing of supplies and care of our grounds to the choice of activities that we host and promote, we will attempt to make the most sustainable choices possible, with respect to our budget and our limitations as human beings. This means that we will consider postponing purchases and purchasing used items as well as purchasing items that are made from recycled or environmentally friendly materials. When planning congregational activities we will consider the impact of our footsteps before we decide how to walk as lightly on the Earth as we possibly can. And we shall engage in ongoing dialog with each other out of respect for the diversity of points of view which we bring to the table.

