



UUCR and the UUA Green Sanctuary Program

Environmental Action
Group

The UUA Green Sanctuary Program...

- Is a **certification program** that provides a framework for congregations to begin projects and activities leading to recognition as a Green Sanctuary.
- Invites **congregations** to explore what it means to live today within a religious community on an imperiled Earth.
- Is a way for **all Unitarian Universalists** to join our efforts in becoming stewards of the Earth.

Green Sanctuary Program Goals

- **Build awareness** of the significance and complexity of environmental issues.
- Encourage personal **lifestyle changes**.
- Engage in **community action and advocacy**.
- Strengthen the **connection between spirituality** and environmental action.
- Work to **heal environmental injustices**.

Steps to Becoming a Green Sanctuary

1. Establish a Green Sanctuary (GS) program team
2. Conduct an environmental assessment
 - Involves an assessment of current church programs and congregational priorities/values in addition to an energy audit*
3. Create an action plan
4. Apply for GS candidacy

Steps to Becoming a GS (cont'd)

5. Review feedback from a GS Review Team
6. Make appropriate modifications to action plan
7. Complete action plan
8. Apply for GS accreditation
9. Receive recognition as a Green Sanctuary
10. Periodically complete re-accreditation process

Energy Audit

The energy audit is required of all churches that own and occupy their own space UNLESS the church:

- has had an audit within the “last three years or so”
- occupies a new building that was “designed with energy conservation in mind”

The EAG proposes to submit the 2007 Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light energy audit updated w/ our improvements

Congregational Assessment

- **Document review:** How existing church policies and by-laws compare to GS program goals
- **Interviews and Reports:** How members of the congregation, church staff, and church leadership would like to grow in relation to GS program goals
- **Direct observation:**
 - How daily practices align with GS program goals
 - What opportunities for growth can be identified within the church and in the larger community

Four Focus Areas

- Worship and Celebration – 2 projects
- Religious Education – 2 projects
(1 child/youth and 1 adult)
- Sustainable Living (4 projects)
- Environmental Justice (2 projects)
- Total of 12 projects required

Worship and Celebration

(photo credit: UUA)

- 2 Worship and Celebration projects



- Objective is to raise environmental awareness and deepen connections to the interdependent web of existence

Religious Education

(photo credit: UUA)

- 2 Religious Education projects
 - 1 for adults, 1 for children/youth



- What environmental stewardship lessons are we already teaching?
- How/where would members like to expand the RE program in this domain?

Sustainable Living

(photo credit: UUA)

- 4 Sustainable Living projects required



- Focus on day-to-day practices in the church desired by members – small changes for the common good

Environmental Justice

- Environmental justice is the recognition that the same paradigm of dominion that has led to global warming also reinforces economic and racial inequities. Only by seeking solutions that address both can we solve either.

–Unitarian Universalist Association

Environmental Justice

(photo credit: UUA)

- 2 Environmental Justice projects required



- Social Action
- New Programs or adaptation of existing programs/practices to reduce impact on affected groups

Environmental Action Group

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Resources:

- Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light
 - <http://www.gwipl.org/>
- UUA Environmental Justice
 - <http://uua.org/socialjustice/issues/environmentaljustice/index.shtml>
- Chesapeake Climate Action Network
 - <http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org/template/index.cfm>
- Montgomery County Dept of Environmental Protection
 - <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/deatmpl.asp?url=/content/dep/dephome/index.asp>
- Rockville Environment Commission
 - <http://www.rockvillemd.gov/government/commissions/ec/index.html>