

# What is a Green Sanctuary?

A Green Sanctuary is a congregation that lives out its commitment to the Earth by creating a sustainable life style for its members as individuals and as a faith community. Sustainable living is not about our material comfort (though these choices are an important part of the overall life style); it is about choosing to live in a way that nurtures life, builds relationships, and rejects material consumption as the sole determinant of happiness. This specific program was begun by the Unitarian Universalist Association, but you could build a similar program at your place of worship or any organization to which you belong. We are willing to help.

## Program Goals

- To build awareness of societal environmental issues among UUs.
- To generate commitment for personal lifestyle changes.
- To motivate UUs to community action on environmental issues.
- To build a connection between spiritual practice and environmental consciousness.
- To build awareness of and rectify environmental injustices.

## Program Activities

The Green Sanctuary Program includes a total of twelve activities in four program areas which are explained in detail in the Manual. These four program elements are:

- Worship and Celebration
- Religious Education
- Environmental Justice
- Sustainable Living

You will complete at least twelve activities or projects spread over the four program elements. Some projects will be one time events, others will be on going over a period of months. Please note:

- A minimum of two activities is required in each of the first three elements, while at least four must be carried out in the category of Sustainable Living, including at least one energy conservation activity. Two additional activities can be selected from any of the four program elements.
- One social justice project will be a major on-going activity in collaboration with another congregation or organization to address an issue of environmental justice in your community or in the world.

## What has the Ormond Beach Unitarian Universalist Society accomplished so far?

We can barely believe what we've accomplished! This was the action plan we wrote last year with those things that we have completed, changed to something even better or continuing to do now are in italics, with changes, partial completion and explanations in bold.

<b>Sustainable Living</b>
<i>Design and implement complete Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle program within UU building. <b>Completed design. Ongoing use.</b></i>
<i>Turn off the hot water heater either by an installed switch or the circuit breaker and turn on only when needed, when dishwashers will be used. <b>Change: solar hot water!!</b></i>
<i>Purchase of new energy efficient kitchen appliances. (Budget dependent) <b>replaced stoves, coffee makers.</b></i>
<i>Install aerators on all faucets.</i>
<i>Replace all lights possible with CFL bulbs. Eventually replace bulbs on dimmers as technology permits. <b>Change: we took out dimmers on almost all lights and changed them over to CFL.</b></i>
<i>Purchase Green paper products for office and kitchen. <b>We are now 100% recycled!</b></i>

<b>Adult Education</b>
<i>Find or design an instrument to measure how individual congregants have become more sustainable over the year of this proposal.</i>
<i>All members of the congregation and visitors will be educated in the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle program as it applies to the building and how they can apply it at home. This will be done in a series of meetings, services, bulletin boards, handouts, signs, etc. The congregation will be educated in the One, Two, Three program for reducing energy consumption.</i>
<i>At least every six months, the congregation and the public will be offered one of several courses designed by the North West Earth Institute, such as "Voluntary Simplicity," "Exploring Deep Ecology," "Discovering a Sense of Power." "Choices for Sustainable Living," "Healthy Children" and "Global Warming."</i>
<i>A large group adult environmental activity will be offered to the congregation and the general public at least bimonthly. This will include lectures, discussions, films, nature days, workshops, clean-up, planting or work days and other outdoor activities to encourage the use of the UU natural area and community outdoor resources.</i>
<i>A communication center (bulletin board, email notices) will be set up to disseminate educational materials concerning green and socially responsible investment. <b>Materials/websites regarding climate change will be made available to adult members of the congregation. Articles relating to the environment will be sent to the Jotter, our monthly newspaper, frequently.</b></i>
<b>Children and Youth Environ. Ed. and Activities</b>
<i>RE Students will participate in activities to "Stop Global Warming." Adult members will be invited to join them.</i>

At least 50% of the RE students will participate in the “Backyard/Schoolyard Habitat” program. This will include establishing a garden that will attract butterflies and other wildlife. Adult members will assist them with this goal.
<i>RE students will offer green alternatives for use in our homes, such as refillable pens, canvas shopping bags and natural cleaning supplies.</i>
<i>At least 4 times a year, Sunday lessons will have green themes.</i>
<i>RE students will assist with habitat restoration in the hammock.</i>
RE students will plan and establish a small organic food garden on the grounds.
<i>RE students will collect and recycle alum. cans for garden funds.</i>

<b>Worship and Celebration</b>
<i>Four times a year, a Sunday Service will emphasize our environmental responsibilities. The Green team has presented two entire services and our pastor has emphasized the environment in several others..</i>
<i>An effort will be made to include material related to the environment in each Sunday service.</i>
* also See Earth Day Celebration under Environmental Justice

<b>Environmental Justice</b>
<b>Earth Day 2008 Celebration</b>
<i>This past year, Earth Day activities were cancelled in Ormond Beach “due to lack of interest.” We propose to plan an Earth Day 2008 celebration. We will involve the entire congregation and the entire community, especially creating ties with other environmental organizations. <b>This is why we are here today!</b></i>
Expand our connection with other environmental organizations and other churches by: 1) <i>participating in community activities such as Halifax River and Beach clean-up days as a congregation</i> 2) Once we get our Recycling program running smoothly, offer to share how and why we are doing it with other churches, schools and businesses. Eventually bring these groups together to encourage our city and county governments to expand their recycling program to commercial accounts.
<i>Become involved with groups already working with the Florida Legislature to pass a law that electricity providers in the state of Florida (Florida Power and Light in particular) must offer “net metering” to residential and commercial accounts to encourage use of solar and wind power in our area. <b>It is done!!!</b></i>

And we have actually accomplished much more than this. The major “extra” is that we are now equipped with two solar attic fans, one solar hot water system, and 10K photovoltaic system. Between them, we are now saving about 50% of our electricity cost. And saving the planet from thousands of pounds of Co2! Many members of our congregations have had solar hot water, fans and pool heaters installed.

We have gained several new and enthusiastic members who have gone far beyond our original plans. Come and see what we have done and what you can do in your place of worship, your home or your business. Call Gaia or Kurtland Davies at 615-2427 for more information. **Come join us!**