

Sunday February 17, 2008
Moving forward as a Green Congregation:
What can I do? What can we do?

“The Green Sanctuary Program provides a path for congregational study and reflection, and a call to individual and collective actions in response to environmental challenges.”
There are five program goals:

1. Build awareness of the significance and complexity of environmental issues
2. Encourage personal lifestyle changes
3. Engage in community action on environmental issues
4. Strengthen the connection between spiritual practice and Earth consciousness
5. Work to heal environmental injustices.

We are encouraged as individuals to learn how our personal lifestyle choices affect the environment, and explore alternative choices to minimize our impact.

*What **do** I already do? Why?*

*What **can** I do?*

Keep in mind that in applying for the Green Sanctuary Accreditation, we can document changes we make as individuals and calculate the collective benefits to contribute towards select projects.

What can we do?

Keep in mind that the main goal of this program is to incorporate “green” thinking / living into our daily lives and Sunday services, not to treat it as a separate entity. Part of fulfilling our requirements for Green Sanctuary Accreditation is to work with the community as a whole, as well as other faith groups.

There are four focus areas outlined in this program.

1. *Worship and spiritual practice* – how can we integrate environmental awareness into our services? _____

This requires two or more projects

2. *Religious education and lifespan learning*

This requires two or more projects

3. *Environmental justice* – what specific justice issues are the focus of social action programs for us?

This requires two or more projects

4. *Sustainable living* – how can we achieve this in our congregational activities now and in the future?

This requires 4 or more projects, including at least one energy conservation activity

There is an additional requirement of 2 activities in any of the four focus areas above.

Additional ideas and concerns:

- Mark Kinney is setting up a Yahoo group so we can discuss ideas and post files to share. Anyone is invited to join the Green Committee at any time. We should expect to take 1-2 years to achieve the Green Sanctuary status.