

## Green Team of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills

*Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*

This is the seventh principle of our religion. We show this respect by the way we live our lives. The church should lead by example through its daily operations. Achieving standards of efficient use of ecologically friendly materials, operating a church that has a low environmental impact, and enhancing the connection between its members and nature is the purview of the Unitarian Universalist Green Team, which has developed the suggestions contained in this document.

By **reducing** consumption of resources (water, energy, land, natural materials) and of toxins, we significantly reduce our demand for extraction of natural resources, and we reduce the amount of pollution. By finding ways to **reuse** items we cannot avoid using, and by **recycling** as much possible of what remains, we further reduce our demands on the natural world. We strive not only to limit the quantity of resources we use, but we also strive to choose the most ecologically-sound alternatives when selecting, using, and discarding products.

We recognize that every item purchased represents an increase in the use of the world's limited resources and an increase in the amount of waste in our air, water, and landfills. When we do make purchases, we consider the life cycle of the product (the extraction of resources, manufacturing/farming practices, method of harvesting, transportation and disposal). We look for content that is used, post consumer recycled, reusable, locally produced, or sustainably harvested (or all of the above). Before using products that are toxic, or which involve the use of toxins in their creation, we consider the necessity and the alternative. When the necessity is present and the alternative is not as benign as we would like, we take special care in assuring appropriate use and disposal of the products.

We are also committed to maintaining healthy environments at our facility. Creating an environment that is healthy to humans is congruous with creating an environment that is healthy to other species.

The Green Team is a standing committee composed of members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills or other interested persons who have volunteered to help the organization develop strategies to operate in accordance with a respect for the interdependent web of all existence. We are committed to providing updated information to the church so that we can continue the process of adjusting our operation to be ever more consonant with the physical and biological systems of which we are a part.

The process for 'greening' any institution requires assessment of many areas to create an environmentally responsible system. A green audit will serve two purposes: 1) to identify areas that need 'greening' and 2) to create a method to track the progress made during the greening process (eg, measure the increase/decrease in green practices, and in some cases, the financial costs/savings of the programs).

This audit will be a living document. It is designed to be altered to meet its objective. This tool will be used as a baseline measurement and will also serve to identify areas needing improvement. On an ongoing basis, suggestions derived from this audit will be presented to the church, and decisions for action will be made. The audit will be continually updated.

**GREEN AUDIT**

Date:

Average monthly electric usage (past 12 mos.) (kWh):

\_\_\_\_\_

Average monthly natural gas usage (past 12 mos.) (mcf):

\_\_\_\_\_

Average monthly water usage (past 12 mos.) (gallons):

\_\_\_\_\_

Average number of gallons of trash per week (past 12 months):

\_\_\_\_\_

**WASTE REDUCTION**

Action	Date Implemented	Comments
Recycle aluminum cans		
Recycle office paper		
Recycle glass		
Recycle plastic (PET)		
Recycle plastic (HDPE)		
Recycle newspaper		
Recycle cardboard		
Reuse envelopes		
Use both sides of a piece of paper for copying		
Use both sides of a piece of paper for printing		
In fax machine, reuse paper that had one-sided printing		
Use refillable pens vs. disposable pens		
Use of recycled-content : Office paper -		% recycled content? % pre/post consumer? Chlorine-free?
Stationary –		
Envelopes without windows–		
Order of Service –		
Intercom -		
Use of toilet tissue with 100% recycled content		
Use of cloth or recycled-content, unbleached napkins and paper towels instead of virgin, bleached paper		
Reuse folders		
Reuse order of service cover		
Reuse computer disks		
Elimination of disposable cups, plates, silverware, serving dishes		
Use of composting for yard waste and kitchen scraps		
Buy products in bulk: <i>List products</i>		

## ENERGY CONSERVATION

Action	Date Implemented	Comments
Organize car pooling		
Procedures in place for turning off electricity for:		
Lights in an empty room		
Computers		
Fax machine		
Copier		
Printer		
Coffee machines		
Install temperature regulators on thermostats		
Complete an energy audit		
Set water heater temperature to xxx		
Use compact florescent lighting		
Select environmentally-friendly energy service		

## WATER CONSERVATION

Action	Date Implemented	Comments
Use of displacement devices in toilets		
Use of aerators on faucets		

## REDUCTION OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Action	Date Implemented	Comments
Use of phosphate-free, biodegradable:		
Dishwashing detergent		
Handwashing soaps		
Cleaning agents		
Reduce/eliminate use of colored paper		
Use only nontoxic fertilizers/pesticides/herbicides for church grounds and plants		
Use unbleached coffee filters		

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Action	Date Implemented	Comments
Create procedures for informing congregation about:		
- "greening" progress		
- eco-lifestyle tips (eg, place weekly tips in Order of Service)		
- pending environmental legislation		
Implement environmental lecture series		
Set up bulletin board		

## SOCIALLY-RESPONSIBLE INVESTING

Action	Date Implemented	Comments
Invest church funds in socially-responsible financial venues		

## USE OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS

Action	Date Implemented	Comments
Use fair trade, shade grown/organic coffee		

## MISCELLANEOUS

Action	Date Implemented	Comments
Enter a statement of commitment to environmentally-sound decision making into the By-laws of the church		
Apply for CERES certification		

## NATURE CONTACT

Action	Date Implemented	Comments
Field trips to natural areas or environmental education sites		
Create an organic garden on church grounds		
Have youth group build bird houses for church grounds		

## RESOURCES

### Memberships in Environmental Organizations

<i>Local</i>	<u><i>UU member</i></u>
Audubon Society	
Carnegie Museums	
Clean Water Action	
East End Food Co-op	
The Nature Conservancy	
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy	

<i>National/International</i>	<u><i>UU member</i></u>
Audubon Society	
Co-op America	
Defenders of Wildlife	
National Parks and Conservation Association	
National Resources Defense Council	
National Wildlife Federation	
Sierra Club	
The Nature Conservancy	
Water Environment Federation	
World Wildlife Fund	

## Periodicals

	<u><i>UU member</i></u>
<i>E: the Environmental Magazine</i>	
<i>International Wildlife</i> by National Wildlife Federation	
<i>National Green Pages</i> by Co-op America	
<i>National Wildlife</i> by the National Wildlife Federation	
<i>Organic Gardening</i>	
<i>SIERRA</i> by the Sierra Club	
<i>The Amicus Journal</i> by National Resources Defense Council	
<i>The Green Guide: Environmental Change Begins at Home</i> by Mothers and Others	

## Books

	<u><i>UU member</i></u>
<i>50 Simple Things You Can Do To Save the Earth</i> by The Earthworks Group.	
<i>Diet for a Poisoned Planet</i>	
<i>Earth Child: Games, Stories, Activities, Experiments &amp; Ideas About Living Lightly on Planet Earth</i> by Kathryn Sheehan and Mary Waidner	
<i>Earth In the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit</i> by Al Gore	
<i>Green Essentials: What You Need To Know About the Environment</i> , by Geoffrey C. Saign	
<i>How to Make the World a Better Place: 116 Ways You Can Make a Difference</i> by Jeffrey Hollender	
<i>Silent Spring</i> by Rachel Carson	
<i>Sustaining the Earth: Choosing Consumer Products that are Safe for You, Your Family, and the Earth</i> by Debra Dadd-Redalia	
<i>The Encyclopedia of Natural Insect and Disease Control</i>	
<i>This Sacred Earth: Religion, Nature, Environment</i> edited by Roger S. Gottlieb	

## Retail Catalogs

	<u><i>UU member</i></u>
Greenline Paper Company	
Real Goods	
Recycled Office Products, Inc.	
Seventh Generation/Harmony	

## Other

	<u><i>UU member</i></u>

