

GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

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 by becoming responsible stewards of the Earth.

The Green Sanctuary Program covers four areas:

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

With the support of the FUUSA Board of Trustees and the Social Responsibilities Council (SRC), members of the Society created a Green Sanctuary Committee in the spring of 2006. The committee meets monthly and its members continue to educate, inform members of FUUSA as well as carrying out programs.

Our minister, the Reverend Sam Trumbore, began our program by delivering a sermon on the environment in the fall of 2006. Dr. John Delano from the State University at Albany gave a series of four lectures on “The Living Earth’ and there was a showing of the movie “An Inconvenient Truth’

In 2007, lectures were held in the fall with speakers from SUNY, RPI, Russell Sage College, and NYSERDA and in the spring FUUSA celebrated Earth Day by having an Earth Day Fair with over ten environmental organizations participating.

In 2008, Forums on environmental issues were conducted along with another Earth Day Fair with eleven environmental organizations involved. In the summer, FUUSA was accredited by the UU Ministry for Earth as a Green Sanctuary.

FUUSA continues to recycle office paper and paper products have not been used for many years during coffee hour and other events. SRC has been recycling ink cartridges and cell phones since 2006 and continues to sell Fair Trade coffee, cocoa and chocolate bars along with items made by women from Guatemala, Ecuador and Mexico. Since 2007 compact fluorescent lamp bulbs (CFL) have been sold. Proceeds from the sales have gone to assist the building at FUUSA to becoming energy efficient. Many members of the congregation have pledged to reduce their driving speed, lower their thermostats and using CFL in their homes.

Accreditation by the Ministry for Earth is just the beginning for FUUSA, so we welcome those interested in working with our committee to find ways of reducing our carbon footprint.