

GREENING YOUR COMMITTEE/ EVENT

University Unitarian Church is committed to being a "Green Sanctuary" in all aspects of church life. By being mindful of how we use resources, we honor each other and the Earth, and adhere to the Seventh Principal, respect for the interdependent web of existence.

How can your church committee or activity reflect UUC's "Green Sanctuary" commitment?
Here are some tips:

- **Carpool** -- Did you know that half of Washington State's carbon emissions come from transportation? Arrange for carpools within your committee. If you are putting on a church event, consider having a carpool signup at a table in Nathan Johnson Hall on Sundays prior to the event. Another way to cut down extra trips is to have your committee meeting right after the church service or between services.
- **Communicate via email** -- Rather than using paper by sending out announcements through the mail, communicate to committee members via email. Not only is it greener, it's easier and costs less too!
- **Receive the Gateway electronically** -- While you're thinking of ways to reduce paper, encourage your committee members to ask the church office to send the Gateway via email. This saves the church money, time, and paper.
- **Incorporate the Seventh Principal** -- Does your committee open and close with a reading or a prayer? Are you looking for a discussion topic or a speaker? Consider focusing on the environment. Here are a couple sources of green-centered worship materials:
http://uuministryforearth.org/res_worship.htm
http://www.earthministry.org/Congregations/worship_aids.htm
- **Buy local** -- For your food event or other activities, seek out local products, to lower the environmental impacts of transport. Look for organic products, too. If you are planning a food event, consider limiting or eliminating meat. Cattle raising is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Eliminate paper products for your food event** -- The Knatvold kitchen is now stocked with china and place settings for 40 people. For small committee gatherings, encourage committee members to bring their own dishes and coffee mugs. If you cannot avoid using disposable products, use recycled paper products and compostable, corn-starch based disposable flatware instead of plastic. Please put soiled paper plates and napkins in the food waste bin.
- **Recycle paper and food waste** -- All Sunday School rooms have blue recycling bins as well as regular trash cans. In Nathan Johnson Hall, there is also a separate, labeled bin for food waste.
- **Consider a green service project** -- Does your committee or covenant group commit to a service project? Brainstorm on a project that incorporates the Seventh Principal. Ask the Green Sanctuary Committee for ideas. A project close to home is to devote a Saturday morning to taking care of the Church grounds. Contact the Church office to coordinate.
- **Share your green experience** -- Share how your committee is "greening" with others in the congregation and the Green Sanctuary Committee. Encourage others to "go green".