

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



Unitarian Universalist
Ministry for Earth

Creating a Green Sanctuary

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Visalia

December 11, 2005



We are aware of the problems

- Global Warming
- Over-dependence on fossil fuels
- Air pollution = asthma and respiratory illness
- Habitat Destruction
- Loss of Biodiversity
- Population Growth
- Resource Depletion



“Our leaders got confused,
so we're all leaders now.”

- Joanna Macy



We Don't Have to Wait!

- Global Warming is being addressed NOW locally all over the USA and the world:
 - U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement
 - California Legislation & Executive Action
 - Cyber March on Washington
 - Interfaith Power and Light



- UU Green Sanctuary Program

Our 7th Principle

- We are part of something larger than ourselves, larger than just humanity.
- We acknowledge the interconnected web of all existence, of which we are only a part.



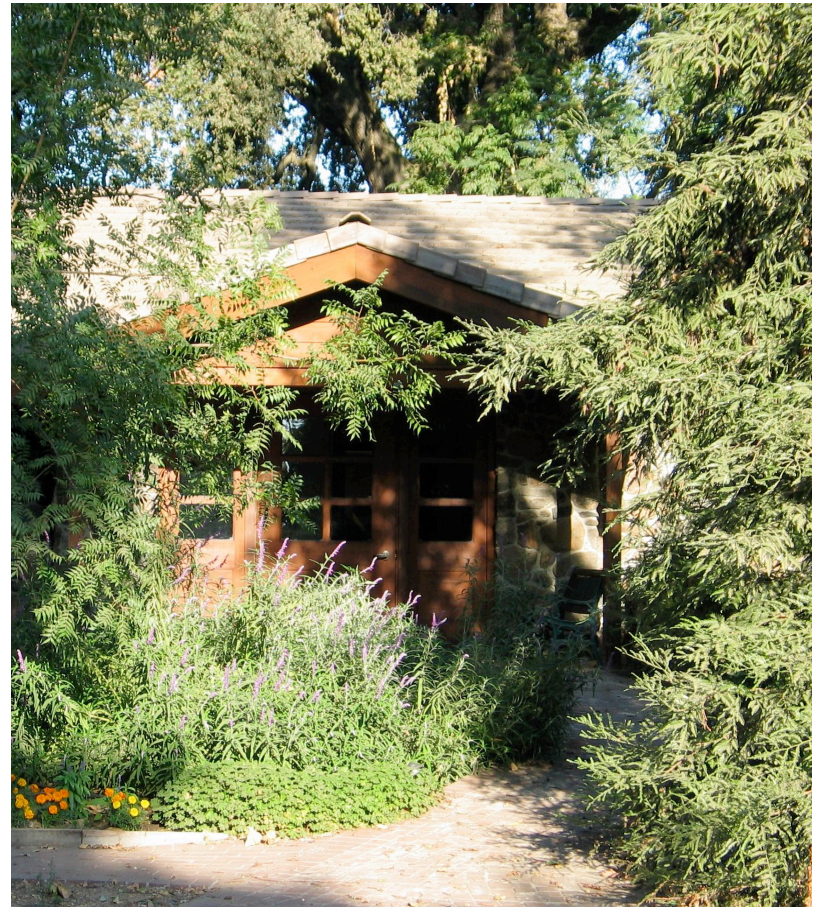
Transforming Theology to Action

- Our principles challenge us to use our power and privilege in the service of liberation for all beings.



Could We Be a Green Sanctuary?

- We already are doing many of the things necessary for accreditation!
- As responsible global citizens we can do more.



“Be the change you want to see.”

- Mahatma Gandhi



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 about choosing to live in a way that nurtures life, builds relationships, and rejects material consumption as the sole determinant of happiness



Program Goals

- To build a connection between spiritual practice and environmental consciousness.
- To build awareness of and rectify environmental injustices.



Program Activities

- A Green Sanctuary performs environmental activities in four program focus areas:
 - Worship and Celebration
 - Religious Education
 - Environmental Justice
 - Sustainable Living



12 Activities for Certification

- To achieve certification, a congregation will complete at least 12 activities or projects spread over the 4 focus areas.
- Some projects will be one-time events, others will be on-going over a period of months.



Program Criteria

- Activities:
 - 2 in Worship
 - 2 in Education
 - 2 in Social Justice
 - 1 energy conservation activity
 - 3 in Sustainable Living
 - 2 additional from any of the four



Step by Step to Become a Green Sanctuary

- Establish a Green Sanctuary Committee
- Conduct an Environmental Audit
- Create an Action Plan
- Apply For Candidacy and complete all activities
- Apply for Green Sanctuary Accreditation



Can we do it?

- We are already implementing it in many of our worship services.
- Many existing resources are available.
- Social justice is a core UU value.
- Hope and action are the only antidotes to despair.



Step 1: Establish a Green Sanctuary Committee

- Represents all aspects of the congregational life
- Provide logistical support to the congregation.



Step 2:

Conduct an Environmental Audit

- Energy
- Purchases
- Landscaping
- Religious Education
- Worship
- Social Justice



Step 3: Create an Action Plan

- Identify 12 projects among the 4 focus areas
- Identify lead person for each project, and time-lines



Step 4: Apply for Green Sanctuary Candidacy

- Application Form requires:
 - Committee Charter
 - Environmental Audit, and
 - Action Plan
- \$100 Application Fee
- Begin work on Action Plan



Step 5: Apply for Green Sanctuary Accreditation

- Perform all activities of the Action Plan
- Document all activities performed
- Submit to UU Ministry for the Earth



Some Project Ideas

- Worship:
 - Continue our Earth-centered sermon topics
 - Sing Earth Songs
 - Get Outdoors



Some Project Ideas

- Education:
 - Participate in environmental film series;
 - Form a Simplicity Circle
 - Take a field trip to a power plant, agricultural methane power generator, or organic farm
 - Use newsletter & website.



Some Project Ideas

- Social Justice:

- Ask Mayors to join U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement
- Join and covenant with California Interfaith Power and Light;
- Join EPA's Green Power Partnership,
- Collaborate with UU Fellowship of Porterville
- Collaborate with local congregations or Habitat for Humanity on green buildings.



Sustainable Living

- Church and members can conduct an energy audit with these resources:
 - Home Energy Saver Calculator:
<http://hes.lbl.gov/>
 - Southern California Edison Home Energy Survey:
http://www.sce.com/_Tools/Residential/HomeEnergySurvey.htm



<http://hes.lbl.gov/>

HOME ENERGY SAVER

The first web-based do-it-yourself energy audit tool

- About this Site
- What's New?
- Testimonials
- Librarian
- Glossary
- FAQ
- Ask An Expert
- No/Low-Cost Tips
- Remodeling
- Local Resources
- Awards & Accolades
- Press Information
- Demo Movie
- Developers
- Students & Teachers
- Search
- Help



Investing in a home on your street could be more profitable than investing on Wall Street.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Find resources to make your home more energy efficient.

Click here
to give us your feedback and help us to improve this site.

Save \$\$\$
Find out more about the profitability of energy efficiency upgrades

CALCULATOR

Find the best ways to save energy in YOUR home!

Enter your zip code

Enter previous session #

Go!

Don't know the zip code?

Money isn't all you save. Visit the ENERGY STAR website for information on energy-efficient products.

Developed by the Environmental Energy Technologies Division
at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Energy Use is Number One Polluter and contributor to Global Warming

- 98% of electricity produced in the United States comes from non-renewable resources such as polluting fossil fuels and nuclear power.
- 85% of U.S. global warming-related emissions come from our energy use.



Saving Energy as a Religious Practice

- Sustainable Living is at the heart of the Green Sanctuary ideal.
- Sustainable living begins with energy efficiency.



Congregations Are Key Partners in Addressing Global Warming and Energy Problems



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Air and Radiation
(6202j)

EPA 480-B-00-003
October 2000

Putting Energy Into Stewardship

ENERGY STAR® For Congregations Guide



Reduce Vehicle Use

- Walk
- Bike
- Use public transit
- Carpool
- Buy a fuel-efficient vehicle or hybrid.



Save Electricity

- Turn off lights, computers and electronics when not in use.
- Electronic devices often have stand-by mode; use power strip to turn off.



Change Your Lights

- Replace incandescent light bulbs with efficient, compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Start with your five most frequently used lights, or upgrade your entire home



Fluorescent bulbs last 10,000 hours longer than incandescent bulbs, keeping more than half a ton of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere over the course of their lifetime.

Adjust Your Thermostat

- Set the thermostat no higher than 68 degrees in winter, and no lower than 78 degrees in summer
- Set your hot water heater to no higher than 120 degrees
- Install an Energy Star programmable thermostat



Change HVAC Filters Frequently

- Change or clean your filters every month.
- Consider purchasing "electrostatic" filters, which are washable, long lasting, and provide cleaner air.
- Get an Annual Tune-Up on your HVAC.



Weatherize and Seal

- Plug air leaks from gaps around windows and doors, pipe and cable penetrations
- Use caulk, spray foam and weather stripping.



Upgrade to Energy Star



- Use Energy Star products:
 - Refrigerator
 - Clothes washer and dryer
 - Heating & Cooling System



Insulate

- Target:
 - Attic
 - Exterior walls and floors
 - Hot water pipes
 - Water Heater (except for new ones)



Buy Green Power

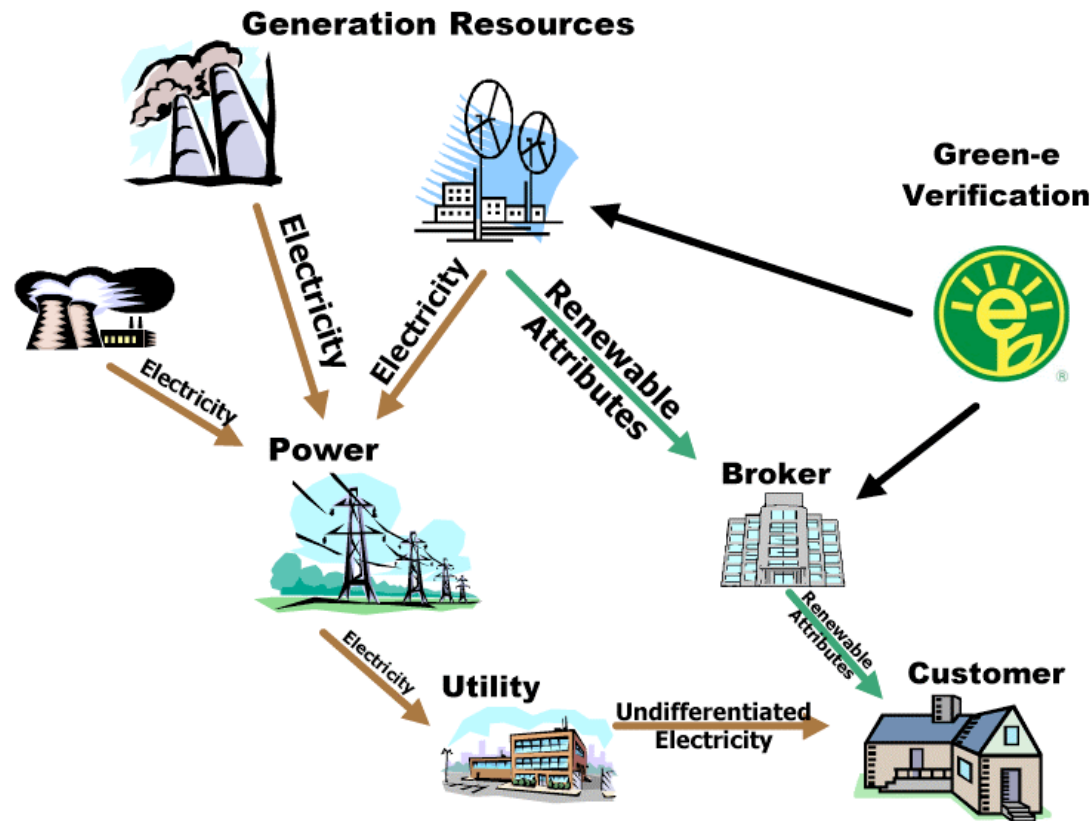


- Buy Renewable Energy Certificates to offset your energy use from fossil fuels.



Renewable Energy Certificates

www.green-e.org



Social Change Never Starts with the Government

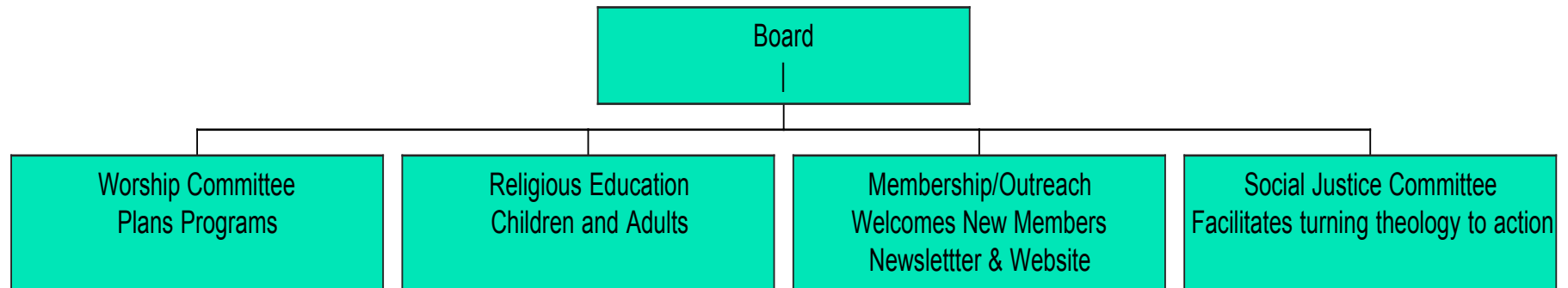
- UU's have a history of courageous leadership in social action.
- Global warming is now the most critical social issue of our time.
- Only a major effort involving everyone can address the problem.



Where Will You Fit In?



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Visalia



“You can’t be a beacon if
your light don’t shine!”

- Donna Fargo

