

Green Sanctuary Projects & How You Can Help

Second Potluck & DVD Night: Sunday, December 13th - 6 pm

Where: Second Unitarian Church, 3012 S 119th Street.

Sponsors: Green Sanctuary Committees of First & Second Unitarian Churches

The purpose of these gatherings is to provide opportunities to explore various environmental and social justice issues impacting our own and other communities across our nation and to discuss what actions we as individuals and congregations can take.

We'll show the award-winning documentary "Kilowatt Ours" followed by a discussion. We've invited the owner of the Energy Smart Company in Rockbrook to demonstrate energy-saving products. The film explores our use of nonrenewable sources of electricity and their adverse health and environmental impacts, including mountaintop removal in Appalachia and global warming. It also discusses the benefits of renewable and sustainable energy and shows the actions we can take in our homes, businesses and communities to build a "net zero nation."

To view Jeff Barrie's new 3-minute video called, "I Dream of a Green Home," visit: www.kilowattours.org.

To learn more about the projects, including who the leaders are for each one, or to suggest a new project idea, contact Green Sanctuary Committee Co-Chairs Ken Deffenbacher or Glenn Pollock, or visit our Fair Trade table Sundays during coffee hours.

1. Donate a single energy efficient light bulb or a package for our visitors. (See the Visitors table).
2. Recycle prescription bottles. (Dana College sends them to medical personnel in Nicaragua for reuse).
3. Volunteer one Sunday during the year to take the church's recyclables to a recycling drop off site.
4. Donate used eyeglasses to the Lions' *Recycle for Sight Program*.

5. Donate gently used books for ages 6 months to 5 years to the *Reach Out and Read* early literacy program at the Creighton Family Healthcare Florence Clinic. Director: Dr. Ann Jacobsen
6. Volunteer one Sunday of the year to help sell Fair Trade coffee and tea.
7. Contribute green news and green tips to E-Broadcast's *Green News*.
8. Share articles and other information at our Fair Trade table on past and current "Building Awareness" Campaigns.

September—Water

October & November—Energy/Global Climate Change

December—Local Green Organizations

January—Socially Responsible Investing

9. Order a "Water is a Human Right" stainless steel water bottle for \$15. This is a fundraiser for the UU Service Committee's Environmental Justice Program.
10. Learn about First Church's efforts to make the building more energy-efficient. Peruse and/or request a copy of the 17-page church energy audit at our Fair Trade table.
11. Suggest an idea for a green outing.
12. Bring information about state and national environmental bills to our Fair Trade table.
13. Earth Day Omaha: Contribute a project idea or volunteer to help plan this annual event. A signup sheet is available at our Fair Trade table. So far, the following Green Sanctuary members and friends have volunteered for this event: Mary Bamesberger, Eddith Buis, Dave Corbin, Dana Freeman, Glenn Pollock, Nancy Scott, Ken, Helen, Karen, Justin, and Alexis Deffenbacher. Projects include: vermicomposting, art from recyclables, sponsoring a bike rack for MAT buses, community gardening, prairie restoration and preservation, landscaping with native plants, green lawn care, backyard wildlife habitat, electricity as a human right, recycling eyeglasses and gently used books, providing handout, "What Can One Congregation Do?"

Youth ages 5 and up who would like to volunteer for or create an environmental community service project, the following websites have helpful online tools and resources: Youth Service America:

www.ysa.org and Global Youth Service Day: www.gysd.org

If you are an older youth or adult looking for environmental service projects in our community, visit the following website: www.serve.gov

Fair Trade Coffee Profits At Work

Two suggested actions for congregations in the *UUA Statement of Conscience on Global Warming* are: reduce the use of disposables in general as much as possible, but when they are used to choose biodegradable disposables made from renewable and sustainable resources.

First Church members and friends often use our church's own dishes, which saves money, energy and other resources. But if there is a need to use "paper" products, we encourage you to use the biodegradable ones stored in the cupboards across from the freezer and refrigerator.

Recently with some of the profits from Fair Trade coffee sales, the Green Sanctuary Committee purchased half of a large order of food service products from Eco Products in Boulder, Colorado, a company that uses green business practices and manufactures the kinds of products that are better for the environment.

Church members and friends who buy Fair Trade coffee have enabled our church to purchase these biodegradable "paper" products.