UUCC Green Sanctuary (GS) Program

UUCC GS Committee is leading UUCC in becoming and Accredited Green Sanctuary

What is the UUA Green Sanctuary Program?

Vision

- A world that is viable and just for humanity and for the whole of the web of life, including present and future generations.

Mission

- The Green Sanctuary Program provides structure, leadership and support, in broad collaboration, for the UU faith community to engage in an ambitious Environmental Justice and Climate Justice movement that seeks to live fully our seventh principle and achieve our vision of a viable and just world for all.

Becoming an Accredited Green Sanctuary

- Congregations seeking Green Sanctuary accreditation will educate themselves and create projects in four focus areas:

Environmental Justice

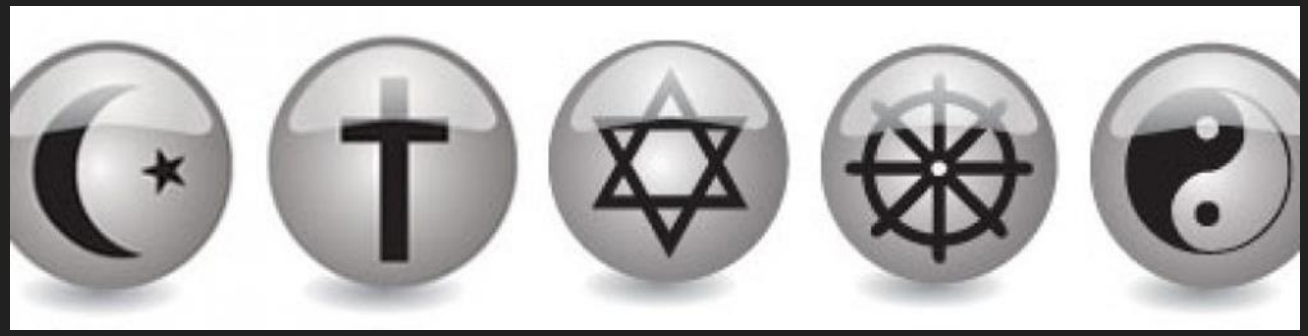
Environmental Justice acknowledges that marginalized communities are often hit first and hardest by environmental crisis. Congregations shift from providing charity to working in solidarity with communities most affected by climate change.

Worship and Celebration

As we work together towards a cleaner, more just and sustainable world, worship enables us to stay connected to each other and to celebrate the work we have accomplished.

Religious Education

Religious Education shapes more than minds. It shapes the attitudes and practices of children, families and the entire adult congregation while inspiring us to keep working toward our goal of sustainable practices.



Sustainable Living

Sustainable living requires us to treat the world more gently by using fewer resources and being mindful of the choices we make.

So how does UUCC go about becoming a Green Sanctuary?

There are specific steps that must be taken.
The Green Sanctuary Team is leading the way.

The Green Sanctuary Committee is a committee under the UUCC Climate Crisis (2U4C) Team.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

GREEN SANCTUARY CONGREGATION

Steps to Become an Accredited Green Sanctuary

Congregations follow a customized, five-stage process towards accreditation:

Stage 1: Team Building and Congregational Education

Stage 2: Congregational Assessment

Stage 3: Creating an Action Plan

Stage 4: Applying to be a Green Sanctuary Congregation

Stage 5: Gaining Green Sanctuary Accreditation

Stage 1: Team Building & Congregational Education

What's Involved?

- Team immersion
- Establishing a Green Sanctuary Team to manage the process
- Congregational education, getting congregational leaders on board

Where are We?

- The GS Team was formed by interested parties who attend 2U4C congregation-wide meetings.
- Meets the 2nd Monday of the month at UUCC and has defined steps needed
- GS Charter was approved by the Board in February 2020
  - Budget was asked for by 2U4C leaders

Stage 2: Congregational Assessment

What's Involved?

- Assess congregational energy and water use, waste disposal, food choices, purchasing and other practices
- Collect data and present it to the congregation

Where are We?

- Receiving quotes for a professional energy audit
- Planning congregational interviews with OBIC, RE, the Minister and others to collect needed baseline data
- Purchased "Our Place in the Web of Life" curriculum and have invited UUCC leadership to take the class
  - We will offer it congregation-wide in the future
- Starting communications with congregation through climate forums and on UUCC webpage

Stage 3: Creating an Action Plan

What's Involved?

- Choosing and creating project plans in the four focus areas based on data from the assessments.
- Creating a communications plan to inform the congregation about all GS work.

Where are We?

- The Action Plan is under construction
  - Many of the projects currently underway by other 2U4C committees will "count" as GS projects
  - Recent past projects, will also be written up and "count" as GS projects
- The communication plan is under construction, but will involve:
  - Information on the UUCC web page
  - Climate Forums
  - Messages from the pulpit and social media

Stage 4: Applying to be a GS Candidate

What's Involved?

- Preparing and submitting application
- Receive feedback, modify plan

Where are We?

- We are hoping that we will be ready to do this later in 2020
- UUA will review and provide feedback within 2 weeks

Stage 5: Gaining GS Accreditation

What's Involved?

- Carrying out the action plan
- Applying for Accreditation status

Where are We?

- Currently, we plan to apply for accreditation in 2021

How can I play a part in the UUCC Green Sanctuary Program?

- Adhere to any new practices UUCC adopts
  - Recycling, composting, reducing plastics
- Volunteer to help on a project
- Attend GS information programs as they are held

The GS Committee will reach out to the congregation as projects are identified!

Where can I learn more about the Green Sanctuary Program?

- UUA Green Sanctuary Webpage (https://www.uua.org/environment/sanctuary)
- UUCC Green Sanctuary Webpage (https://uucolumbia.net/green-sanctuary-at-uucc/)

THANK YOU!

Questions?

Ideas?

Please share them by emailing:

climateaction@uucolumbia.net and put in subject line: Green Sanctuary