

Simple Sustainable Steps

- **Promote worship services** dedicated to the moral obligation for creation's care, including Earth Day services.
- **Recycle** materials used on the church property.
- **Form a group** in your congregation to advance environmental awareness and sustainable practices. Join the **Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition**.
- **Discourage disposables** and encourage members to use durable tableware such as plates, metal utensils, and mugs.
- **Offer environmental education** programs for children, youth, and adults.
- **Involve youth** of the church in environmental actions and programs.
- **Conserve energy:**
 - **Conduct an energy audit** to enable energy efficiency and conservation.
 - Encourage members to **reduce energy usage** resulting in economic savings.
 - Consider **renewable energy** sources such as solar power.
- **Purchase responsibly.** Buy recycled paper products and non-toxic chemical cleaners.
- **Support fair trade and sustainable farming** practices by buying, serving, or selling fair trade coffee and other products.
- **On your grounds,**
 - **Grow native** plants, grasses, and ground covers to conserve water and ensure successful landscape.
 - **Avoid toxic** pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers.
 - **Compost organic material**, e.g., leaves, lawn clippings, and food scraps.

Why Do We Care?

Earth is our home. We are part of this world and its destiny is our own. We, as people of faith, are called to join with others to halt practices that fuel global warming/climate change, to instigate sustainable alternatives, and to mitigate the impending effects of climate disruption. Our faiths dictate that we must commit to a renewed reverence for all life, all creation, and all existence.

We affirm the following norms of social and environmental responsibility:

JUSTICE: We must create right relationships, to ensure for all members of the earth community the conditions required for their flourishing.

SUSTAINABILITY: In covenant with humanity and all other living creatures, we are called upon to be responsible for our truly long-term impacts.

BIORESPONSIBILITY: All species deserve a "fair share" of Earth's bounty.

SOLIDARITY: We are committed to the global common good.

HUMILITY: We recognize the limits of human knowledge, technical ingenuity, and moral character.

(Paraphrased from the United Church of Christ's "Open Letter to Church and Society," and the Unitarian Universalist Association Statement of Conscience on "Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change.")
3/07



General Information and Resources



Our mission is to encourage sustainable living initiatives in faith communities.

For more information, contact:
info@sustainablestuary.org
or Jerry at 913-568-4250
www.sustainablestuary.org

Resources for Faith Communities

The Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life

www.coejl.org

Earth Ministry

www.earthministry.org

Eco-Justice Ministries

www.eco-justice.org

Evangelical Environmental Network

www.creationcare.org

The National Council of Churches

www.webofcreation.org

National Religious Partnership for the Environment

www.nrpe.org

Presbyterians for Restoring Creation

www.prcweb.org

The Regeneration Project/Interfaith Power & Light

www.theregenerationproject.org

Religious Witness for the Earth

www.religiouswitness.org

Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth

www.uuministryforearth.org

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

www.energystar.gov;

search for congregations

For the K.C. Metro area: Bridging the Gap

www.bridgingthegap.org

We should think of our resources not as having been left to us by our parents, but as having been loaned to us by our children. --A Kenyan Proverb

Examples

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church Kansas City, Missouri

- "Eat Your Values" lunches
- Earth Flag flown
- Recharge and recycle batteries
- Sponsor documentary films and forums

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church Overland Park, Kansas

- Paper and aluminum recycling by youth to fund mission trips
- Use recycled paper in the church office
- Energy efficient upgrades

St. Andrew Christian Church Olathe, Kansas

- Straw bale construction (Hearth Room)
- Natural landscaped areas
- Building use policy
- Fair Trade Coffee

Solar panels on roof reduce use of power from the grid



Photo Courtesy of Unity Church of Sussex, NJ

St. Paul United Methodist Church Independence, Missouri

- Landscape conversion to organic practices
- Butterfly and hummingbird gardens created by church youth
- Organic composting facility
- Information on recycling, hazardous waste disposal, and cleaning alternatives.

Shawnee Mission Unitarian Universalist Church Overland Park, Kansas

- Stream clean-up participation
- Bridging the Gap Earth Day Walk participation
- Paper recycling
- Conservation display prepared by youth

The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection Leawood, Kansas

- Parking lot run-off reclamation ponds
- Energy efficient HVAC with remote control
- Paper recycling
- Landscaping with native plants

Village Presbyterian Church Prairie Village, Kansas

- Motion-activated lighting
- Computer reclamation ministry
- Environmental education
- Purchase recycled paper, non-toxic chemicals, and alternatives to Styrofoam



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