



TJMC UU Green Sanctuary ACTION PLAN

Final Report
2010 - 2011

Worship and Celebration Projects We Offered

Worship Services

- “Our Sacred Trees,” Earth Day, April 2010 (offered twice)
- “Healing the Gulf,” July 2010
- Two Interfaith Vigils for the People and Mountains of Appalachia services, Oct. 2010, 2011
- “What’s the Story of Your Food?” Mother’s Day, May 2011 (offered twice)

Celebrations

- Mother Earth Brunch, May 2011 -- (250)
- Recognition of TJMC “Eco-Heroes” during services (2)
- A new ritual lighting of a green candle “to hold our hopes for peace and for the planet that we share” every Sunday
- Dedication of the TJMC Green Sanctuary Arboretum, Nov. 2011

Religious Education Projects We Offered

Mini-Green Workshops & Earth Friendly Fridays Presentations

- “Composting with Earth Worms,” with Worm Crusader Jan. 2010 (20)
- Blogger Sharon Astyk, “Climate Change and the Economic Crisis, Sept. 2010 (30)
- “Transition Cities,” January 2011 (25)
- “Zero Garbage Challenge,” April 2011 (35)

Children’s Religious Education Programming

- Stars Studios month-long unit on Earth Stewardship, Stewardship Project (1st-5th grades) which included four studios (drama/movement, story, arts, cooking) for each group. Topics were Rachel Carson, Jacques Cousteau, and Quality Community Council Urban Farm.
- What is Mountaintop Removal? talk to “Coming of Age” class
- “Why I Love Mountains” Quilt Fall 2010
- “Trees” field lesson with Jenny Gaden and tree “scavenger hunt” April 2011

Adult Faith Development Courses (An Extra Project)

- “Building Community Resilience To Climate Change, Peak Oil, And No Growth Economy,” (10). Two workshops were open to all members of the congregation -- “Rainwater Harvesting” and “Weatherizing Your Home.” Oct. 2010
- “A World of Health Connecting people, Place and Planet” Northwest Earth Institute Course -- in partnership with the Sierra Club. (10) Feb/Mar 2011.

Environmental Justice Projects

“Go Tell it on the Mountain.” Advocated to End Mountaintop Removal (MTR)

- Attended a Stream Saver state bill Senate hearing in Richmond along with Appalachian Voices, opponents of mountaintop removal coal mining. (5) Two of us testified, January 2010.
- Traveled to Kayford Mtn. to be witnesses to MTR and to meet activists and UUs in West Virginia. (10) June 2010
- Held two Sunday evening vigils for the Mountains and People of Appalachia (60)
- Presented talks and sermons on MTR to the Congregation of the Peninsula, April 2010, St. Paul’s Episcopal Feb. 13, and UU Congregation of Williamsburg in April 2011.
- Created Interfaith Green Network e-list and Eco-justice e-list for Charlottesville.
- Invited to speak at the Green Sanctuary session at General Assembly in June 2011 and included in *UU World’s* story about anti-MTR activism.

Tree Stewardship

- Offered a joint sermon with the minister, “Our Sacred Trees,” followed by a tour of our trees
- Identified and publicized the trees on our grounds, including those that are memorials to various people living or dead.
- RE children learned about our trees.
- Created a guide with map of trees on our grounds.
- Scheduled a tree tour and dedication of our Green Sanctuary Arboretum, fall 2011.

Environmental Advocacy (An Extra Project)

- Began advocacy by joining a national grassroots movement sponsored by the Sierra Club, “Green Energy Works” and partnered with Green Corps. iJanuary 2010
- Attended a Clean Energy Forum where we trained to be better citizen lobbyists. (6)
- The Rev. Dr. Morris Hudgins joined select religious leaders from across the Commonwealth inviting other faith leaders to urge the Senate to pass federal climate change legislation.
- Collected signatures in support of the energy legislation and mailed them to our senators and congressman.
- Attended Virginia Conservation Network Lobby Day in Richmond. (3)
- The congregation participated in a photo for 350.org’s “Day of Climate Action, 2010.” (70)

- Demonstrated against MTR before the shareholders' meeting of Dominion Power in Charlottesville (1)
- Met with aides of U.S. Sens. Webb and Warner in Richmond to educate them about MTR from our perspective (3)
- Incubated and host for the formation of a Charlottesville Transition Towns group. (16)
- Published letters to the editor of our local paper (3).
- Maintain an active e-mail list (39) and campaign to write letters and influence lawmakers both locally and nationally on behalf of environmental issues

Sustainable Living Projects

Weatherization, Energy, and Conservation Upgrades for Our Buildings

- Set goal for energy conservation and reviewing our energy bills to see whether we met our 7% reduction goal.
- Sealed overhead lights in the sanctuary.
- Converted overhead lighting in the Social Hall and Parlor to dimmable CFLs, and ceiling fans were installed in the Social Hall.
- Purchased and installed new LED EXIT signs and a new exterior door to the Parlor, and sealed all eight fireplaces in Summit House against air leaks.
- Summit House was treated for mildew and mold. The crawl space was completely sealed to the upper floor with foam insulation, sprayed for mold at a cost of over \$11,300.
- Purchased and installed energy-efficient light fixtures for sanctuary basement.
- Purchased and installed Insulating shades for the ramp windows between the Sanctuary and the Social Hall.
- Entered the LEAP Clean Energy Makeover Non-Profit Challenge Contest. We had 25 registrations and came in second.
- The church contracted with Dixon Trash Disposal AT NO COST to haul our trash and recyclables to Van Der Linde Recycling Center in Fluvanna County, where their Green Machine employs "single-stream" recycling, recovering over 90% of it."
- New insulated doors and windows are ordered for Edgewood Lane sanctuary entrance.

Sustainability Policy for our Church

- Board Covenant approved June 2010.
- Discussions initiated with key councils and committees, Fall 2011.

Car-Pooling Plan for TJMC Sunday Services

- Drew up maps and initiated carpooling sign-ups.
- Held four Carpool Challenge Sundays, one in spring and three in the fall. 50 Members participated in the fall. A drawing was held each time, with more than 30 prizes awarded.

“Ethical Eating” Initiative: We Offered:

- Mother’s Day Mother Earth Brunch -- to educate cooks and diners about choices of local, organic, and non-factory farm raised meats. We made and served over 250 brunches.
- Supported UUpitties’ program, “Preserving the Harvest,” fall 2011, speaker about how to save and store local, fresh food. (20)
- Tour of Bellair Farm CSA, Gardening, and Lunch -- October 2011 with an introduction to GA Statement of Conscience on Ethical Eating
- Purchased food compost receptacle to be introduced for the kitchen, and new outside compost bins have been completed. Education regarding composting continues.

Additional

Green Lending Library and Film Series We Offered:

- “Food Inc.,” shown during 2010 Social Action Film Series
- “Full Signal” offered in February 2011
- “Blue Gold: Water Wars” in April 2011
- Purchased four new videos, storage trays, etc. for materials.

Green Outings & Socials

- Quality Community Council’s Urban Farm Tour completed the RE children’s cloth bag project..
- Sponsored a committee Wearin’ O the Green party with Green Corps at Grady’s Irish Pub on St. Patrick’s Day 2010.
- Held a Mother Earth Brunch on Mother’s Day. We fed over 250 people with local, fresh foods between and after services. Sides were donated. (15)
- “Cover Crops in the Garden” video offered with a local, organic potluck July 2011, in partnership with Transition Charlottesville/Albemarle. (35)

** Numbers in parentheses indicates approximate numbers attending