

GREEN SANCTUARY QUIZ

Like a radio transmitter, the Green Sanctuary Task Force has been sending out messages to our congregation regularly. Is anyone out there? Is anyone listening? If you have been “tuning in,” test your knowledge about our “Green Sanctuary” environment below. Answers may be found below!

- 1) How many projects does the UUA require for a sanctuary to complete to become an accredited Green Sanctuary?
- 2) Why does Summit House have so many fireplaces, and why is this an energy problem?
- 3) Why should we aim to replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents, in church as well as at home?
- 4) What is the most serious but least costly energy conservation issue facing the sanctuary building?
- 5) Why does our Grounds Committee use rain barrels, and how can you make one too?
- 6) How much money has our Board budgeted for energy conservation capital improvements for the coming year?
- 7) What is the purpose of our Mini-Green Workshops, and when are they offered?
- 8) Where is the TJMC Green Lending Library located?
- 9) How many other churches in the area have joined our Interfaith Green Network?
- 10) What is a “square foot” garden, and where is our church’s garden located?

ANSWER KEY

- 1) The UUA invites UU congregations to examine and step-up their environmental policies and practices by completing **12 activities** in four different categories: Worship, Religious Education, Environmental Justice, and Sustainable Living.
- 2) The Summit House was **built in 1875**, before central heating. Each major room has at least one fireplace. It now is heated with a heat pump, **but the fireplace chimneys are not sealed adequately and are major contributors to heat loss and high energy bills.** When Summit House is used to house PACEM, its utility bills are higher than the total for our sanctuary, administrative office, education classrooms, and social hall combined.
- 3) **Compact fluorescent Light bulbs (CFLs) use far less electricity to produce the same amount of light as standard bulbs.** They ARE more expensive initially, but over their lifespan, they will save money and energy. Two years ago, we purchased new dimmable CFL bulbs for the Social Hall (36) and the Parlor. Unfortunately, we are well stocked with traditional bulbs, which raises the dilemma – is it more sustainable to use the already-produced bulbs than to purchase the CFLs? This is an example of the dilemmas we face as we move toward a more sustainable future.
- 4) The professional Energy Audit we conducted this spring revealed three serious energy losers in our sanctuary building: our windows, which are single-pane, our light fixtures, which have grills that “leak” heated and cooled air from and to the attic above the sanctuary, and the attic itself, which has just a 1 inch layer of insulation instead of the thick insulation required to prevent energy loss. **Replacing windows and lights can be quite expensive, so the answer is: insulating the attic above the sanctuary.**
- 5) The Grounds Committee was lucky to have Peter Deer convert old barrels into rain barrels in which to collect and store rainwater to water our plants and gardens during periods of drought. You can register for a workshop run by the county if you want to build one

yourself. Obviously, rainwater is free, but it also conserves other water for our increasing population.

- 6) As a result of our Energy Audit, the Board has added a new budget item of \$6,124 to support energy saving maintenance in all three church owned buildings.
- 7) Mini-Green Workshops are designed to educate members of our congregation about practical ways they can make their lifestyles more sustainable, as well as environmental dangers that confront us. For example, workshops on composting, toxins in plastics, eliminating junk mail and recycling have been offered. Several are planned for next year, at 12:45 p.m. after Sunday services.
- 8) To help you sort through the maze of conflicting information about sustainable living practices, we offer the congregation numerous ways to learn more. Our Green Lending Library collection of books and videos located in the Parlor, on the right enclosed bookshelf area, is available to sign out now.
- 9) Five other churches with environmental stewardship committees have joined the local Interfaith Green Network listserv created by Green Sanctuary Chair Sharon Baiocco this spring. Our Green partners are Buck Mountain Episcopal Church, Congregation Beth Israel, R. E. Brown Christian Center, St. Paul's Episcopal Memorial Church, and Westminster Presbyterian Church. Through this network, we were able to make contact with the president of Albemarle Heating and Air, who performed our energy audit for free!
- 10) A square-foot garden is a raised garden bed designed to make home gardening easier. Framed by wooden sides, and filled with enriched soil, the bed is roped off into squares so that families or individuals can garden communally but harvest individually. The raised beds are also easier to weed and less accessible to varmints. Our square-foot garden is located behind Summit House. Join us!