

Annual Report, 2009-2010: Green Sanctuary Committee

Our purpose is to serve as a catalyst in our congregation's journey toward sustainability and effective involvement with environmental issues. We accomplish this by following UUA's Green Sanctuary Process.

Events: Dick Rehberg's Critical Environmental Issues project organized 8 educational events this year: Tipping Point, The New Economy of Nature, Creating the Battery Technology Essential for a Green Economy, Climate Change, Story of Stuff, Greening the City of Binghamton, Saving Energy in Our Homes, and Hybrid Fuel-Efficient Buses and Trucks. We also helped with other events that were organized by other committees and community organizations. These are included below under "Completed Projects".

Projects: Projects are at the heart of the Green Sanctuary Program. Some of these are organized and implemented directly by Green Sanctuary members while others represent collaboration with another UUCB committee. This year, UUCB completed 20 more projects:

- Completed: Support Greta Greene's Climate Walk; Summer RE 2009; Food, Inc.; Bearing Witness to Coal; October 24th Climate Change Day of Action; Gas Drilling Forum on Nov 18; Darcey Laine "Ethical Eating" Service; Non-Toxic Cleaning Supplies for UUCB; Gas Drilling Rally in Albany; Jumpin' January 2010 Environmental Sessions; Sarah Stockwell Sustainability Service; Environmental Action Support Group; Earth Fest 2010 Participation; Carbon Tax Petition
- Completed, Ongoing: Share Environmental Books, Magazines, DVDs; Recycling Corner in Beacon; Better World Shopping Guide; The Threat of Drilling for Unnatural Gas; UUCB/VINES Collaboration; Reusable Shopping Bags

To date, UUCB has completed 40 projects (13 are ongoing). We currently have 24 projects underway, including the 13 that are ongoing. For the list of these projects, see www.etmsolar.com/gsuu/gs/GS.Projects.pdf or the Green Sanctuary Bulletin Board.

Other Accomplishments: We provided the "Green Matters" column in each Beacon and expanded our web content at uubinghamton.org/gs/green.html. As of this writing, 128 congregants have made an EcoPact commitment to reduce their environmental footprint.

Milestones: We submitted our Green Sanctuary candidacy application to UUA in August, who reviewed and approved it in September. We have now completed all projects needed for accreditation. In March, UUCB was awarded a NYSERDA grant for the installation of solar panels on the roof of the RE wing.

What's Next: The congregational vote for accreditation is scheduled for the annual meeting in June. We will then prepare UUCB's Green Sanctuary accreditation application and send it in to UUA this summer.

Communications Leader: Gerri Wiley

Project Leaders: Carol Miyake, Trebbe Johnson, Susan McAnanama, Wes Ernsberger, Lee Shepherd, Lynne Theophanis, Beverly Singer, Gerri Wiley, Dick Rehberg, Lillian Theophanis, Rema Loeb, Heather Kirkland, Cindy Cotten, and Kathleen Stephenson.

Active Participants: Eric Loeb, Tom and Dolores Elliott, Cindy Cotten, John Patterson, Scott Clarke, Len Rucinski, Walt Melzer, Heda Libby, Lauren Floden, John Hamlin, Libby Anderson, and Don Brister.

Wes Ernsberger, Chair