

## **Annual Report, 2014-2015: Green Sanctuary Committee**

Our purpose is to serve as a catalyst in our congregation's journey toward sustainability and effective involvement with environmental issues.

Ongoing Projects: Green Matters column in the Beacon; Green Sanctuary web pages; work with Property Committee on energy efficiency, composting, and keeping up the grounds in an earth-friendly way.

### Summary by Month:

**August:** Gardening at the Broome County jail project started.

**September:** Thirteen of us from UUCB participated in the People's Climate March in NYC.

**October:** Spoke out for a climate change goal in the new Long Range Plan. EcoForum presentation by Southern Tier Solar Works. Installed fan vent cover in the Sanctuary.

**November:** Bill Thorpe and Tim Wolcott introduced environmental elements into their Greenman service. Two leaf raking parties.

**December:** Governor Cuomo decides to ban fracking in New York! Many at UUCB worked for years to help make this happen.

**January:** Book discussion of Naomi Klein's "This Changes Everything". The Endowment Committee puts UUCB on a path to fossil fuel divestment.

**February:** "Binghamton Area Climate Action Now" (BACAN) group launched. This grew out of the book discussion in January. EcoForum on fossil fuel divestment as part of Global Divestment Day.

**March:** EcoForum: "Getting to Net-Zero: No More Dinosaurs Required". Helped out with Social Justice Sunday. Discussed the UUCB climate commitment with the UUCB board.

**April:** Rema Elderwisdom. UUCB climate commitment workshops. Adult Religious Education course, "Who Asked for Climate Change, Anyway?"

**May:** Sold carbon offset certificates for 2015. Provided a recycle container for each room. Built a children's garden for the summer RE program.

**June:** Congregation to vote on UUCB Statement of Commitment to Climate Action. Annual scrap metal drive.

Project Leaders: Tim Wolcott, Chris Rounds, Bev Singer, Wes Ernsberger, Gerri Wiley, Scott Clarke, John Patterson, Gay Canough

Participants: Dick Rehberg, Joe Thompson, Alan Hochberg, Cecily O'Neil, Steve Kresge, Dorothy Haverly, Nancy Lee, Bill Thorpe, Rema Loeb, Jim Taft, Lillian Theophanis, Baylen Slote, Bram Loeb, Bill Knipscher, Christine Niskanen, John Roby, Jean Rose-Klein, Adam Flint

Wes Ernsberger, Chair