

MAKING YOUR CONGREGATION a GREEN SANCTUARY

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for Social Justice*

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"Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part" is the seventh Unitarian Universalist principle. It implies concern for the health and sustainability of the living earth. It recognizes our responsibility to take action in response to the damaging impact of our species on the planet and the interdependent web.

To affirm and promote the seventh principle, the Seventh Principle Project, an affiliate of the Unitarian Universalist Association, has developed the **Green Sanctuary Program**. This program is an aid to congregations that wish to become more environmentally aware and responsible. The program guides the congregation through a series of steps leading to a "greener" church.

The goals of the program are:

- To build awareness of societal environmental issues among UUs
- To generate commitment for personal lifestyle changes
- To motivate UUs to community action on environmental issues
- To build a connection between spiritual practice and environmental consciousness
- To build awareness of and rectify environmental injustices

An interested congregation needs to establish a Green Sanctuary standing committee, with a designated chair. The committee must advise the Seventh Principle Project of its intent to seek recognition as a Green Sanctuary Church. Actions must then be taken in the following areas, over the course of a church year, before the congregation votes to submit its application (with documentation) for recognition.

The action areas to be addressed are:

- Energy conservation and environmental practices
- Reducing, reusing and recycling
- Church communications
- Religious education
- Worship
- Environmental justice

For a Green Sanctuary manual and a church start-up kit, send \$10 along with your request to:

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