



Green Sanctuary Program Fact Sheet

The Green Sanctuary Program is administered by the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. A Green Sanctuary is a congregation that has received official recognition for completing the Green Sanctuary Program. Green Sanctuaries are committed to implementing sustainability measures in congregational life and encouraging individual members to make environmentally-friendly choices.

In order to receive Green Sanctuary accreditation, a congregation must:

- Complete an environmental assessment, including an energy audit.
- Develop an action plan, with a minimum of twelve projects that are environmentally responsible and spread across the four focus areas: worship and celebration, religious education, environmental justice, and sustainable living.
- Spend 1-2 years creating and implementing their action plan.
- Report to a panel on successes, outcomes, and challenges in completing their action plan.
- Agree to continue environmental work after their action plan has been completed and participate in the re-accreditation process 4-5 years after receiving accreditation.

The goals of the Green Sanctuary Program are to:

- Build awareness of the significance and complexity of environmental issues among Unitarian Universalists.
- Encourage personal lifestyle changes.
- Engage in community action on environmental issues.
- Strengthen the connection between spiritual practice and environmental consciousness.
- Work to heal environmental injustices.

The Green Sanctuary program originated in 1999, when a task force of Unitarian Universalists was convened to create a step-by-step process for addressing environmental issues in congregational life.

There are 130 accredited Green Sanctuaries. In total, there are 253 congregations involved in the Green Sanctuary Program (1 in 4 UU congregations). For a list of all Green Sanctuaries, please visit <http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/greensanctuary/120443.shtml>

All UUA Districts have congregations involved in the Green Sanctuary Program. 40 U.S. states and the District of Columbia have congregations involved in the Green Sanctuary Program. 7 Canadian congregations are involved in the Green Sanctuary Program.

For more information about the Green Sanctuary Program visit:
<http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/greensanctuary/index.shtml>

Updated September 2010.