

Unitarian Church North Green Team

As a relatively new committee, the Green Committee grew out of a Barn Banter held in the spring of 2007. Coordinated by then Minister Elena Rigg, this meeting drew thirty-six people and demonstrated the desire for involvement in environmental issues both within our congregation and beyond. The Barn Banter brainstorming session generated many ideas and much enthusiasm. This general meeting was followed-up with summer meetings where a vision and mission were created. On September 10, 2007 the UCN Board approved the Green Committee as a standing committee.

Since that time, the Green Committee has been busy! Below are a few things that the committee has either completed or working on at present.

- ❖ Vegetable garden
- ❖ Built a compost bin, held workshop on how to build one
- ❖ Installed mug rack in the fellowship hall and encourage the use of non-disposable cups during coffee time
- ❖ Worked with Sunday Service Committee on reducing the numbers of Orders of Service printed each Sunday
- ❖ Established an ongoing monthly column in the Northliner, called "Green Corner," covering a wide variety of "green" topics
- ❖ Posted signs to encourage wise water use in all bathrooms and in the kitchen
- ❖ Encourage the use of real dishes at church fellowship functions
- ❖ Coordinated an interactive carbon footprint workshop
- ❖ Hosted a local food talk by local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farmers
- ❖ Coordinated a silent auction of a CSA share with the proceeds going to the UCN general operating budget
- ❖ Conducted a walk-through energy audit of the church
- ❖ Coordinated three Walk, Bike, Carpool to Church Day events
- ❖ Offered multiple Northwest Earth Institute courses, including Voluntary Simplicity and Choices for Sustainable Living
- ❖ Offered "An Amazing Journey!: The Universe & Me" adult education course
- ❖ Coordinated recycling efforts at UCN
- ❖ Increased UCN's green library
- ❖ Hosted two community electronic recycling events keepin 20+ tons of electronics out of landfills
- ❖ Hosted Sid Syam's presentation on Spirituality and Nature Future
- ❖ Hosted an area-wide Mindfulness retreat
- ❖ Promoted the replacement of UCN boilers to cost-saving and energy efficient models
- ❖ Hosted an eight-week "Green Living" discussion and action program
- ❖ Established a seed-gathering and sharing program with Hawley Environmental School
- ❖ Established a Friday Flyer feature entitles "Toward a Sustainable Future" to provide facts and food for thought

Currently the Green Committee is focused on obtaining the Unitarian Universalist Association's "Green Sanctuary" designation. This process will integrate "green" thinking into all aspects of the church community. This is a very ambitious and exciting project for our congregation.