

Statement of Intent Regarding Sustainable Practices

Proposed by the Green Sanctuary Committee
February 2012

We, the Board of Trustees of First Unitarian Church of St. Louis, support the ongoing effort by this church to become accredited as a “Green Sanctuary” under the guidelines of Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. By incorporating environmentally friendly, sustainable practices into our church policy, we affirm our belief in the Seventh Principle and practice “respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” Therefore, we have adopted the following Statement of Intent:

1. ***Reduce, reuse, and recycle.*** First Unitarian Church will strive to become more efficient in the use of energy, water, and other resources for all church activities and will reuse, recycle, or compost materials wherever feasible.
2. ***Intentional purchasing.*** First Unitarian Church is committed to purchasing environmentally preferable products and services for church use. In selecting products and services, First Unitarian Church will balance environmentally friendly considerations with other factors such as price, quality, and availability.
3. ***Maintenance, paving, and construction.*** First Unitarian Church will work to make its building and grounds more environmentally friendly.
4. ***Education.*** First Unitarian Church is committed to educating members, friends, and the wider community about environmental issues.
5. ***Budgeting and investment.*** First Unitarian Church will keep environmental practices in mind when creating its annual budget. The church through its committees will seek to practice environmentally and socially responsible investing.
6. ***Implementation.*** To implement the above practices, as well as other Green Sanctuary initiatives, the Green Sanctuary Committee of First Unitarian Church will (1) facilitate broad communication with the congregation and be available to provide technical assistance to committees, Board members, and others as needed; (2) maintain a list of recommendations; (3) recruit volunteers as needed; and (4) monitor practices and develop a visual display for reporting the church’s progress toward our goal of “growing more sustainable”. First Unitarian Church will regularly evaluate its practices for sustainability.