

Green Sanctuary Committee
Minutes, July 24, 2007

Present: Becca Gagne, Tom Stipe, David Towle, Karen Wigglesworth, Betty Massie, Steve Votey, Kay Hanson, Dusty Bailey, Kay Wilkins, Karen Volckhausen

Energy audit

(refer to Pam Peason's e-mail for details of 6 points): last energy audit was 2003- Peter Zack; agreed that we appoint a UUCE energy audit coordinator and repeat the audit; committee proposes Pam David found a check list on UU website that will help keep us on track; will put it in green corner and send around by e-mail. Is there someone who knows about LEEDS standards; need to carry through with all aspects of audit, look at blue prints, form questions, consult with Steve Shay

Local recycling practices

David will build new recycling bin-brought the plans;

Church policies regarding cleaning materials

Becca will present a basic statement to the board stating that we will buy the most environmentally friendly, cheapest products possible; brought a catalogue from Swish in Holden, dollar store a cheap source of products

Investment policies of the Maine Community Fund

Issue on green investments needs to go on next board meeting agenda-Kay will do this; where are they investing, where do they want to be investing? GSC requests that as much as possible we keep investments green and socially responsible; should be heading toward full disclosure to congregation; also need to have a conversation with Me. Community Foundation-What are their holdings? What do we want to do about it?

Landscaping policies

Guidelines – Susan Stahlberg

The church will use Integrated Pest Management when considering pest controls in the landscape. IPM is a system that “takes into consideration all aspects of the garden ecosystem, rather than focusing on a pest as an isolated nuisance to be eliminated.” Regular monitoring and nontoxic strategies will be attempted first. If more of a control is needed, the committee will contact the Maine Cooperative Extension to get guidelines for proper, safe application.

Concerns discussed about ever using pesticides- organic practices the ideal

Focus on native species

Religious Education Programs

Youth- Green School Project run by Peter Zack- can earn money through recycling of cartridges, cell phones; he can send materials with directions; money for advertising; ; looking for someone to work with the kids on this; duties would be to meet with kids, review instructions, set up times to send recyclables in, help develop advertising

Adult- Tom- Focus the Nation on Global Warming; 4 week long discussion course- Changing Warming: Changing CO2 course building up to kick off date, February 2; wants to coordinate environmental programs with this; set aside a few Sunday's for earth centered programs; Jim Scott will head it off, coordinate with the worship committee; could coordinate with spring events such as the HOPE festival, Friends of Acadia clean up, COA

Other issues

Concern about germ spread from cloth napkins; Steve will check with hospital infection control at his workplace; could they be autoclaved? How many minutes in a hot dryer? Napkins are now 100% recycled; share information by e-mail, phone call to Pam

Still talking about purchasing a sanitizing dishwasher; on board agenda for Aug 9; this opens up the issue of serving food which might require a big stove; concerns about current stove- pilots going all the time- an energy and money drain; some people are committed to this stove; Do we need a statement about getting rid of it? Seems premature-first need to do an audit, look at the whole picture

Having electric devices on power strips will save energy

Furnace replacement- still considering biomass-fueled furnace

Problem with rusty water from our well; rust filters are available

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 21 at 7 PM and every third Tuesday
e-mail agenda items to Steve