

3/1/10

## **Application for Green Sanctuary Accreditation**

### **Congregation Information**

Congregation Name: Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church  
Address: 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814-4099  
Web site: [www.cedarlane.org](http://www.cedarlane.org)

Green Sanctuary contact: Charlotte Brewer  
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Application written by Connie Nissley, Charlotte Brewer, and Molly Hauck

Ministers: Roger Fritts, Sr. Minister; Heather Janules, Assoc. Minister; Susan Archer, RE Minister

### **I. Congregation Profile**

The membership is 840 right now, having cleaned up the database. Our average Sunday attendance is 404, we have 568 pledging units. We have 110 pledging friends.

CLUUC has a paid staff of 14 individuals, including 3 ministers and a church administrator. The Environmental Task Force (ETF) has no specific staff liaison, but various staff members have supported the work of the task force. Also, the ETF is considered a sub-group of the Social Justice Council, which includes ETF in its budgeting and has supported it in other ways.

RE enrollment for fall, 2009 is 248 (babies -12th graders, including 35 in 10-12th grade). 2009 Spring B registration was 279. (Spring B is a separate intergenerational RE program that is held 5 Sundays during April and May of 2009.) The Adult Programs have total of 315 registrants.

#### History:

Cedar Lane church was established in 1951. Located in the suburban Washington, DC area, it is in Montgomery County, MD, with a relatively affluent and well educated membership. In 2003, before the Green Sanctuary program started, a small group began to seriously work on making the church more aware of energy efficiency. In the spring of 2003, a Green Energy Expo was held by the task force for the CLUUC community.

We started the process of becoming a Green Sanctuary in January, 2004. A list of answers to the Environmental Audit Questions was compiled on the basis of our first congregation-wide meeting in June, 2005 to assess our environmental practices and awareness. Some of these items were inspired by the efforts of the Environmental Task Force in the time it had been working before June, 2005. To increase congregational involvement, the ETF called meetings of

interested congregational representatives from each relevant committee, in June, 2005, June 2006, and Sept., 2008 to assess the congregation's ongoing progress. During 2005-06 the ETF identified 12 activities for accreditation in the 4 major areas.

The spring of 2006, at the annual meeting, the congregation and the Board of Trustees voted to support CLUUC's application for Green Sanctuary certification. Cedar Lane was accepted as a GS candidate in 2006.

At the Social Justice/ BOT March Fourth Sunday, March, 2007, congregational church service CLUUC members ranked the environment and global warming as their greatest concern.

Also in 2007, the BOT passed a policy to encourage reduction of the CLUUC footprint on the environment by reducing, reusing, and recycling. Both of these Board actions illustrate our congregation's interest in applying the 7th UU principle. To make a difference in the effects of our lifestyles, we must commit ourselves to thoughtful action.

## **II. Congregational Vote**

We went to the congregation before completing our main environmental justice project because we had completed everything else and didn't want to wait another year before becoming certified as a Green Sanctuary. We also asked members of the congregation to fill out a survey about how they feel that the Green Sanctuary program has changed the church, but few people filled it out. Our request to become certified passed unanimously on April 19, 2009.

This is what the congregation voted on. It was adapted from the statement that the UU Church of Arlington, VA had their congregation vote on when they became a Green Sanctuary.

### **Our Green Lens**

“We, members of Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, recognizing that our congregation has nearly completed the Green Sanctuary Action Plan of the Environmental Task Force, authorize submission of the church's application to the UUA requesting that Cedar Lane UU Church be accredited as a Green Sanctuary congregation.

“We understand that completing the Action Plan is only the beginning of our church's ongoing work to integrate environmental awareness, sustainable practices, and environmental justice into our church's community life. Today, we vote our support for a policy (previously endorsed by our Board of Trustees) to guide our decisions and actions over the years ahead. This policy commits our ministry, staff, and members to giving deliberate and consistent attention to the environment in all areas of our church's activities and to striving to make CLUUC a model of how churches can help our society move toward a sustainable future. We recognize that while some such decisions may increase costs, many are already accruing savings or are cost free.

“We, as a Congregation, make this commitment to environmental awareness and action with the

same seriousness with which we continue to commit to promoting social justice and to welcoming people of all races, religious backgrounds, cultural origins and sexual orientations. It is our commitment to live out the 7th UU principle--respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.”

We are emailing a separate attachment with the notes from the annual meeting held on April 19, 2009 showing that the congregation voted unanimously to support our request to become a Green Sanctuary.

### **III. COMPLETION OF ACTION PLAN**

#### **A. Worship and Celebration Projects (2 required)**

##### 1. Project Title: Sermons on environmentally related worship topics

Project Description and Action: Sermons given on environmental topics by the ministers and visiting speakers each year since 2003.

Lester Brown on Plan B (2004)

Mike Tidwell on global warming (2005)

Climate Change as a Moral Debate, Paul Chan (2006)

Roger Fritts on safety issues in Nuclear Regulatory Commission (2008)

Susan Archer “Climb the Mountains and Get their Good Tidings” (2008)

Roger Fritts on the lead-up to Copenhagen (2009)

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing

Outcomes: Increased awareness of environmental issues and the importance of Cedar Lane working on them.

Lead: Ministers and Worship Committee, with requests from the ETF.

##### 2. Celebrations: Project Title: “The Green-In” (October 20, 2007)

Project Description and Action: This was our biggest project. The March Forth Sunday (March 4, 2007) led to a request from the chair of the board that we put on a congregation-wide green event to celebrate and encourage the interest in reducing global warming and other environmental issues that the congregation expressed. The ETF planned a congregation-wide green event (a "Green-In") for Oct. 20, 2007 that focused on educating, entertaining, and drawing more members of the congregation and the larger community. Many people attended it and people were very enthusiastic about it. The two main topics covered were reducing carbon

footprint by reducing energy usage and increasing awareness about alternative ways of building and living, and non-toxic/organic living. Initiated by the ETF, members of the RE Council, the Social Justice Council, and the Cedar Lane Stage were also involved in planning this event.

Fifty exhibitors showed how they reduce our carbon footprint, and provide sustainable buildings and eating. Jane Lawton, one of our State Delegates, spoke about the bill that she got passed on stormwater management. After an organic potluck dinner, there was entertainment and art on an environmental theme from all ages. A few months before this, Cedar Laners had created a play on global warming as part of a presentation of the Revels, a popular national and Washington, D.C. group. It included all ages (children to the elderly). This was repeated at the Green-In event.

Timeline for Completion: October 20, 2007

Outcomes: The Green-in was well attended and considered a great success.

Lead: Mike McKenna, member of the ETF

## **B. Religious Education Projects** (2 required, 1 for children and 1 for adults)

### **1. Project Title: Religious education for children**

#### a. Project Title: Children' chapel services.

Project Description and Action: There is a children's chapel service 3 out of 4 Sundays for K through 6<sup>th</sup> graders. There is an ongoing commitment to include appreciation of the natural world and our responsibility to the environment, as topics during chapel, several times during the year. Susan Archer made sharing issues of our natural environment a major focus of her sabbatical study.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

Outcomes: We need more discussion and documentation of this with the Minister of Religious Education (MRE) and Religious Education (RE) Council, but have been told in the past that environmentally awareness was included often.

Lead: Susan Archer, Minister of Religious Education

#### b. RE Social Justice Projects

Project Description and Action: All of the RE classes choose social justice projects as part of their curriculum. Some of these are specifically related to the environment.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing

Outcomes: Along with aspects of many RE curricula, these projects are encouraging children to

become more aware of their responsibilities to caring for the environment. Examples:

- Usually, at least one RE class participates in ETF's semi-annual Rock Creek clean up.
- The ninth grade RE class has been collecting used ink jet cartridges and cell phones for recycling at their donut/bagel table in the lounge using all money raised by it for their annual trip to Boston.

Lead: Susan Archer, MRE, and the RE Council

## **2. Adult Education through formal talks and classes**

### a. Project Title: Adult Programs

Project Description and Action: CLUUC has an active Adult Program Committee, planning courses, Sunday morning Forums, and other programs. The Adult Program Committee asks the ETF for suggestions for programs from groups such as ETF.

Lead: Charlotte Brewer, member of the Forum Committee; and Donna Runyan, Chair of Adult Programs

Time: Ongoing

Examples of adult programs related to environmental issues:

#### Forums and Adult Ed classes:

Early 2006:

1-28-- Ruth Berlin, Director of the Maryland Pesticide Network spoke on The Impact of Pesticides on Public Health and the Environment.

2-4 CLUUC member Jerry Kline, retired Administrative Judge with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission spoke on the Licensing and Construction of New Nuclear Power Plants.

3-11 James Mahoney, PhD, former Director of the Climate Change Science Program spoke on how to value questions about and how seriously should we regard climate change? What practical steps can individuals, industry, government and non government organization take?

3-19 Jennifer Shill, Director of Communications for the Potomac Conservancy spoke on Issues Affecting the Potomac's Health, Beauty and Recreation Opportunities.

2008:

Forum: Janet Fox, Co-Chair of the ETF spoke about EFF's ongoing project with the community. The goal is to find out through in store surveys what advice is given to customers about paint,

pesticides, furnace filters and safety alarm products that impact the home environment and people's health.

2009:

Adult Education classes:

Food was established as an environmental issue through three Adult Ed classes: Menu for the Future, Eating Lower on the Food Chain, and Ethical Eating. "Food, Inc." was shown after a vegetarian potluck. A member of the church, Donna Runyan, is a dietician, and has taken the lead on food.

Going Solar

Sugar Loaf Mountain hike.

Forums: FOCCUS, Stormwater Management, "Where can you a good drink around here?" by a member of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC)

Winter 2010:

Adult Education programs: Voluntary Simplicity; Guide to Home Energy Savings; Food: Go Green, Get Lean; bicycling; one book in the book discussion on an environmental topic (Barbara Kingsolver on food); spring bird walk; hike to Glen Echo Park; kayaking.

Forum: Lynn Goldman, M.D.: March 7, 2010: "How we can manage chemicals and plastics in our lives."

Feb. 2010: We had a vegan potluck dinner and showing of the movie "Asparagus"

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

Outcomes: There continues to be interest in these programs and new ones are scheduled each season.

Leads: Adult Program co-chairs, Donna Runyan and Helen Worth  
Forum Committee: Dusty Kreisberg and Marion Torchia

### **3. Intergenerational environmental education**

Project Title: Spring B classes planned by the ETF since 2005 (for the past 5 years)

Project Description and Action: Spring B (RE intergenerational classes between Easter and Memorial Day each year) class planned by the EFF on environmental issues.

Examples from Spring 2007:

1. Mary Somers gave an introduction of her 4 week adult education Course LOW CARB-on DIET. Participants drew their CO2 footprint. Discussion followed on reducing Co2 producing life styles.
2. We joined the Grounds Committee to learn plants in the certified CLUUC Wildlife Sanctuary and pulled invasive plants.
3. Visited a CLUUC member's new green roof to learn its environmental cooling and runoff prevention.
4. We visited a Community Sustainable Agriculture Ashram, whose leaders will participate with CLUUC in the future. Arrangements will be made for organic foods from the Ashram to be purchased by CLUUC members.

2009:

We visited a geothermal house, community sustainable agriculture, bio-dynamic gardening, update on global warming from the National Wildlife Association.

2010:

We are planning to visit a garden which uses sustainable gardening practices.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing

Outcomes: Each year there has been enough interest in the various topics, out of a varied selection of classes, for there to be a class.

Lead: Charlotte Brewer

#### **4. Informal congregational education on environmental issues.**

Project Title: Informal education of the congregation

Project Description and Action:

1. During Sunday morning coffee hours, the ETF table in the lounge provides information on sustainable living and political issues related to the environment, primarily in Maryland. For example, letter writing campaigns on Maryland and national legislation on environmental issues, such as reducing global warming (e.g., the Clean Cars Act and the Global Warming Solutions Act in Maryland; national bills on reducing global warming). (EFF co-chairs Charlotte Brewer and Molly Hauck worked with the Chesapeake Climate Action Network to get the Clean Cars Act passed, and participated in two town meetings which promoted it (Dec., 2006 and March, 2007). These bills have become laws in Maryland.

2. Education in the form of "Green Tips" has been in each newsletter (prepared by Janet Fox and Alice Wahl).

3. Movies shown by EFF: "An Inconvenient Truth shown twice, and Tom Brokaw's movie on global warming twice through the Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light (GWIPL). The UU rep for GWIPL, Molly Hauck, is an ETF co-chair. After a vegetarian potluck dinner, we showed "Food, Inc." in Dec., 2009 to 71 people in attendance. In Feb., 2010 we showed the movie "Asparagus," after a vegan potluck dinner for about 30 people.

Timeline for completion: Ongoing.

Outcomes: It is difficult to assess the effect these activities have on members.

Lead: (1), (3). EFF, co-chairs, Charlotte Brewer and Molly Hauck (2). Alice Wahl

**C. Environmental Justice** (2 required, 1 long-term that actively promotes justice for those affected by environmental injustices and creates relationships)

1. Project Title: Friends of Chernobyl Centers US (FOCCUS): Hosted children from Slavutich for 6 weeks.

Project Description: Mabs Mango, who died in Oct. 2005, organized Friends of Chernobyl Centers U.S. (FOCCUS), an ongoing group of people who met at Cedar Lane to discuss the aftermath of Chernobyl. Their main headquarters are in Madison, WI, and Cedar Lane is the East coast center. This is the group that organized the visit of children from the Chernobyl area last summer. The goal was to provide a physically and emotionally healthy experience for these children, away from the economically and emotionally depressing environment of Chernobyl, which has still not recovered from the Chernobyl explosion. The children live in an environmentally degraded area. This trip was planned to give them a visit with families in our area, including needed dental care.

There has been a lot of discussion of the pros and cons of nuclear energy at Cedar Lane in the past few years. Cedar Lane is located near the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and there are several members who work(ed) there for decades.

The Science and Religion group, under Harvey Lerner's leadership, concluded that nuclear power is a responsible approach to reducing global warming. In 2005, the EFF organized a debate between Harvey and an opponent of nuclear energy as a way of reducing global warming.

Our senior minister, Roger Fritts, has challenged the church membership to advocate for increased nuclear safety.

Timeline for Completion: June-July, 2006

Outcomes: The goals also describe the outcomes.

Other FOCCUS activities have been supported:

- CLUUC member Don Cleary continues to keep church membership informed about the Chernobyl population.
- A young Swiss couple presented a program in which they described their bicycle trip to areas where displaced Chernobyl persons are presently living near Chernobyl.
- FOCCUS organized a 9-day program September 2009 for 6 Ukrainian local governmental representatives who work with the Chernobyl Centers to learn how local NGO's interact with the local government in Maryland. This was supported by CLUUC by providing a location for some of the activities and hosting be several CLUUC families.

Lead: Don Cleary

## 2. Project Title: "Secret Shopper - Healthy Stores" project

Project Description and Action: This project, developed by EFF co-chair, Janet Fox, and her husband, Tom Neltner, asks secret shoppers to ask how to do home renovation projects like painting areas currently covered with lead paint, finding out what kind of information large home stores like Home Depot and Lowe's give out. Then, after the study is completed, if poor advice had been given, telling them the correct way to do it and requesting them to educate their employees so they give out the correct information in the future. This would be followed up by later test shopping.

Visit the website, [www.healthyhometraining.org/Retail/DC.htm](http://www.healthyhometraining.org/Retail/DC.htm).

Timeline for completion: Worked on in 2009 but never completed

Outcomes: There was little success in recruiting enough shoppers. They received about 30 completed store surveys, including some from Cedar Lane members. Comments from Janet Fox: Tom and I did quite a few visits ourselves. After all of the recruiting we did for helpers, we did not receive the 70 surveys we were hoping for to do a statistical study. However, I believe stores were spreading the word that we were out there checking them out, which is a positive result. I say this because the stores we surveyed early on gave terrible and dangerous advice, but a few months later when we did the last surveys, sales clerk advice was improved.

Lead: Janet Fox

### 3. Project Title: Environmental justice project at Beacon House on recycling for children, teens, and staff

Project Description: Beacon House (BH) is an ongoing project actively promoting justice for those affected by environmental injustices and creates relationships.

“Beacon House's mission is to assist at-risk children and youth to identify and pursue their educational objectives culminating in college or vocational training and to prepare them for productive involvement in their community and society.”

(<http://www.beaconhousedc.org/about.html>) It is supported by a number of UU churches in the DC area. CLUUC has had a long term relationship. During the spring of 2009, members of EFF spoke with Rev. Don Robinson, founder and president, about what were his environmental issues and concerns for the BH community and decided to focus on education on recycling. Beginning in July of 2009. Members of EFF who would be participating discussed cultural sensitivity with CLUUC ministers and a minister from All Soul's Church in DC, before starting the project in earnest. The main focus has been to encourage BH staff and children interest in recycling and to obtain recycling containers for the apartment building in which BH is located.. The education curriculum includes a combination of movies, discussions, books, and field trips to a transfer station, landfill, Anacostia River environmental center (Earth Conservation Corps), and a recycling center.

- a. Project with children (ages 5-12) during their camp: 3 field trips
- b. Project with teens (fall, 2010): 6 sessions, including one field trip

This was long and complicated so we have put the details in the Appendix.

Ongoing: Staff members of Beacon House continue to contact the ETF for suggestions. They have applied for a Captain Planet grant so Beacon House can help provide recycling for more of the apartment complex.

We continue to stay in contact with Beacon House and provide additional ideas for environmental projects and projects relating to healthy food. Staff members of Beacon House continue to contact the ETF for suggestions. They have applied for a Captain Planet grant so Beacon House can help provide recycling for more of the apartment complex.

Timeline for Completion: Began July 2009, completed Nov., 13, 2009.

Outcomes: *(Describe the specific outcomes that have resulted from this project.)*

Greater awareness of and interest in recycling on the part of the children, teens, and staff of Beacon House. Greater interest in working on environmental injustices from people at Cedar Lane.

Leads: Molly Hauck and Charlotte Brewer

**D. Sustainable Living** (4 required, 1 that addresses energy conservation)

1. Project Title: Sale of environmentally-friendly items.

Project Description and Action: During coffee hours on Sunday mornings the ETF has sold CFL's, LED Christmas lights, tire gauges, and stainless steel water bottles to raise money and raise the consciousness of church members about what they can do for the environment.

Timeline for Completion: Intermittent

Outcomes: There continues to be some interest in buying these items.

Lead: ETF – Charlotte Brewer, Molly Hauck, co-chairs.

2. Project Title: Collecting used items for recycling

Project Description and Action: **Recycling**

a. Project of Ninth Grade RE class. Timeline for Completion: 2008-2009

Outcomes: Members contributed items, such as ink jet cartridges and cell phones. Boxes for collecting were present at coffee hours. Each year the class decides what project(s) to do.

b. Collecting and taking recycled materials, such as CFLs, tube fluorescent light bulbs, and other batteries to the Montgomery County Transfer Station. 2008-10 (ongoing) Lead: Dick Kauffunger

c. 2009-10: We have been collecting cell phones and donating them to an organization called "Secure the Call" that gives them to victims of domestic violence to be programmed for emergencies.

Timeline for completion: Ongoing.

Outcome: A lot of people have donated and continue to donate old cell phones.

Lead: Molly Hauck and Dick Kauffunger

3. Project Title: Facilities Committee encouraged conservation efforts through many efficiency measures.

Project Description and Action: Environmentally friendly practices of our Facilities Committee have in recent years been leaders in environmentally sustainable practices and have done a lot to make the church more energy efficient. They are beginning to implement 2006 energy audit recommendations to make the church more energy efficient.

Outcomes:

- a. Installed double-paned thermally efficient windows in the staff offices on the main level, and in many of the rooms on the lower level, where the RE classes are held. They will replace more windows in the lower level and especially in the nursery school area in 2010, 2011, and later, as the budget permits..
- b. Replaced outside doors with double pane thermal doors (front and back of the church).
- c. Installed light switches that turn off automatically in the bathrooms in the main facility. They are considering installing light switches that turn off the old fashioned way but stop electricity from coming in if no one moves in the room.
- d. Buy part of the church's energy through renewable sources: solar, windpower, and methane. We don't know how much of the church's energy use is from renewable sources yet. The church administrator will provide us with the information when she has time.
- e. The church has used only CFLs bulbs, where possible, since 2002 because the former building manager installed them to reduce energy costs before people were talking about global warming.
- f. Insulated ceilings in office space, over the sextant's office, and insulated and boarded up a ventilator hole in the backstage area.
- g. Purchased environmentally friendly carpeting (carpet that does not offgas and does not cause pollution when disposed of).
- h. Engineers from the county came to consult with Facilities Committee members on improving storm water flows and preventing water from getting into one of the classrooms near the driveway. They considered terracing some of the areas near the driveway that lead to the runoff problem. The problem with the water getting into the classroom corrected itself so no changes have been made yet to the stormwater runoff issues. A member of the Facilities Committee is now looking into the possibility of a U of MD intern that might help us work on these issues.
- i. The Facilities Committee also suggested in a newsletter article that members take similar steps in their own homes. "Especially in these times of rising energy costs, saving energy also saves money."

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing, as capital budget allows.

Outcomes: The church is much more energy efficient than it was when we started in 2004.

Lead: Facilities Committee, Peter Lowenthal, chair (2004-08), Jack Rodgers, chair (2008-10).

4. Project Title: Gradual progression from disposable to permanent dishes, utensils, and glasses  
Removal of styrofoam cups and replacement with ceramic mugs during coffee hour.

Project Description and Action: The use of Styrofoam during activities at CLUUC was ended by 2006 or 2007. Cardboard cups were used at coffee hour (2007-09). Use of non-disposable items, such as cups, mugs, and ceramic dishes have been promoted and washed in the dishwasher by church members (2009-10). In 2009 one couple donated mugs to replace the cardboard coffee cups. The ETF appeals frequently for volunteers to wash the cups with non-toxic detergent each Sunday. Green aprons have been made to identify "The Green Team" Signs have been made: a polar bear whose caption reads: "My habitat is melting, please RECYCLE your cup."

Timeline for Completion: 2009-10 has been a transitional year. We hope that all receptions, dinners, and events will use permanent dishes by the end of 2010. We will also ask groups that rent the church to use permanent dishes (2010 on).

Outcomes: Ceramic mugs are being used during coffee hour and a schedule of cup washing has been set up. More groups are using the ceramic dishes stored in the main church kitchen and in the kitchen of the Chalice House (former parsonage redesigned for use for meetings).

Lead: ETF.

5. The Grounds Committee does not use herbicides or pesticides and does not encourage anyone else to do so. They work hard at removing invasive plants and planting native plants when possible. People in environmental Spring B class assisted in pulling out invasive species. At our request, they became certified as a National Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation in 2006.

6. Project Title: Rock Creek cleanup

Project Description and Action: Since 2004 once in the spring and once in the fall, CLUUC intergenerational groups, together with a neighborhood group, have cleaned trash from Rock Creek, major tributary of the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay, which runs adjacent to the CLUUC property. We collect trash and separate plastic bottles to be recycled. We work with Friends of Rock Creek Environment (the FORCE). Trash is then collected by the county. It is not possible for the ETF to adopt a portion of Rock Creek but the Publicity/Outreach Committee has adopted a nearby road that they are cleaning up twice a year.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

Outcomes: Successful participation by all ages (20-30 per cleanup), including some RE classes. Each time there is trash to collect, so people in the neighborhood and driving by are still tossing trash. But, presumably, our participants are more aware of the issue.

Lead: Charlotte Brewer.

**E. Additional** (2 required, these can relate to the program elements of your choice)

1. Project Title: CLUUC Youth Assisted with Tree Planting Work (March 24, 2007)

Project Description and Action:

On March 24, 2007, a group of a half-dozen Senior-High youth from Cedar Lane UU church, under the guidance of Senior High Youth Leader Glenn Farley and a volunteer parent, worked with a group of about 75 volunteers to plant young trees at Potomac Overlook Park in Arlington, Virginia, near the Potomac River. On April 21, 2007, a larger group of enthusiastic Cedar Laners, including both Junior- and Senior-High-age youth, led by Glenn Farley, Morgan McLean, and a volunteer parent, worked with about a half-dozen others to plant trees at Utica State Park in Thurmont, Maryland, near the Monocacy River. Both activities were orchestrated by the Potomac Conservancy's Growing Native Program and the local park staffs.

At Potomac Overlook Park, approximately 240 seedling trees were planted in open areas in the woods where larger trees had fallen. The open, sunlit ground was being overrun by invasive non-native vines, interfering with the growth of surrounding native forest plants. The youth planted five species of trees and shrubs (Northern Red Oak, Red Maple, Persimmon, Red Osier Dogwood, and Hazelnut), and pulled invasive vines (mostly English Ivy, Oriental Bittersweet, and Multiflora rose). Everyone learned about the area's native forests and the increasing problem of invasive plant species.

The tree planting at Utica Park was further away from the church, and started at 7:00 a.m., so the youth and leaders chose to sleep over at the church in order to get an early start. The combination of a sleep over, outdoor work, and an after-work picnic at Cunningham Falls State Park drew about a dozen Junior- and Senior-High age youth from the congregation. Colleen Lagan, Potomac Conservancy's Growing Native Project Director, said of the Cedar Lane youth: "I thoroughly enjoyed the spunky spirit and lighthearted humor of the young people from the church."

Timeline for Completion: March and April, 2007

Outcomes: Our youth made up the majority of the volunteer work force, and approximately 200 seedling trees were planted, including Silky Dogwood, Redbud, Hazelnut, Green Ash, Persimmon, and Chestnut Oak. The trees will help establish a riparian forest buffer to improve water quality. We learned that, as the trees grow, they will mitigate runoff by absorbing nutrients

such as phosphorus and nitrogen, stabilize stream banks and prevent soil erosion, and help to maintain cool water temperatures through shading. As they grow, the trees will provide corridors for wildlife, and enhance local scenery into the future. The tight-knit Cedar Lane youth had fun working together and with others outdoors, and knowing their work was helping the environment.

Lead: Glenn Farley, Youth and Young Adult Coordinator

2. Legislative: Letter writing campaigns in the lounge to get people to support environmental bills in the Maryland General Assembly. These have included: clean cars, clean air, global warming, and the current “bag bill” to create a 5 cent tax on bags.

Ongoing Jan.-April every year while the Maryland General Assembly is in session.

Outcomes: Increase awareness of the legislative process and show people where their state legislative districts are and who their state legislators are. This outcome is never achieved. We have to help people learn this every year.

Lead: ETF

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### **III. Accomplishment of Program Goals**

- \* 1. To build awareness of societal environmental issues among UU's.

There has been wide involvement in the various actions that the ETF has planned or encouraged. As a result, members of CLUUC, who may have been somewhat aware of these issues, are most likely more concerned now.

The education for adults, children, and intergenerational activities all inform people about the complexity of environmental issues.

Awareness of global warming has led the Facilities Committee and members to run the church in a more energy efficient way. Awareness of stormwater management and clean car, water, and air have been highlighted in our legislative actions and educational programs.

- \*2. To generate commitment for personal lifestyle changes.

CLUUC is in an affluent, educated community that both understands many environmental issues and has tended to use resources thoughtlessly. We feel that our journey toward becoming a

Green Sanctuary has increased members' awareness, but we have a long way to go.

Many of the Adult Ed classes and the "Green tips" in the newsletter encourage people to make personal lifestyle changes.

The Green-In provided information about green businesses in the food, home, and energy efficiency areas, and it increased interest in them among all ages. One of our state legislators talked about the bill that she had just passed on stormwater management. We hope that this inspired people who attended to make personal lifestyle changes.

- 3. To motivate UU's to community action on environmental issues.

Cedar Laners are busy in their own lives and many have specific social justice issues that they work on. There has not been much increased interest in community action on environmental issues. We have tried to motivate members to participate in the political process by writing letters to their state legislators on environmental issues. We also send emails about environmental issues in the community, Congress, and state environmental issues.

We improve the neighborhood and a tributary that runs into Chesapeake Bay by doing the Rock Creek cleanup with Friends of Rock Creek (the FORCE) twice a year.

The ETF promoted an understanding of global warming and the need to become more energy efficient, both at church and at home.

- \* 4. To build a connection between spiritual practice and environmental consciousness.

Spiritual practice is being reverent and mindful of the preciousness (sacredness) of all that sustains healthy life. Many of the prayers and readings offered during services and other gatherings evoke reverence. Most recently we had an appreciative grace before a vegan potluck supper for about 30 church members.

Cedar Lane is a member in the local Greater Washington Power and Light.(GWIPL).an interfaith religious response to global warming, which urges congregations to reduce their carbon footprint. One of the co-chairs is on the GWIPL board.

- \* 5. To build awareness of and rectify environmental injustices.

a. The Environmental Task Force is under the auspices of the Social Justice Committee, Cedar Lane is a member in the local Greater Washington Power and Light. (GWIPL), and one of the co-chairs is on the GWIPL board. Some members of the Social Justice Council helped with the Beacon House recycling project with children during their camp. We do the Rock Creek cleanup with Friends of Rock Creek (the FORCE).

b. We responded to the request of the director of Beacon House, UU minister Rev. Don Robinson for help in getting recycling going at Beacon House. He had been taking recycled material home for years. He was unable to get the management of the apartment complex in which Beacon House is housed to provide recycling bins, totes, and pickup of recycled material. We worked with the management to make this happen. Through projects with children, teens, camp counselors, and the staff, we increased their interest and participation in recycling.

Nine church members, including some members of the Social Justice Council, helped with the Beacon House recycling project with children during their camp.

c. New Orleans. Ten Cedar Laners went to New Orleans for a week in January 2010 to help with “Rebuilding Together,” a project that restores houses destroyed by Katrina. They were very enthusiastic about their work in New Orleans.

#### **IV. Program Evaluation**

*\* 1. What do you believe has been the most important benefit your congregation has gained as a result of your participation in the Green Sanctuary Program?*

a. Increased commitment by committees and individuals to being aware of making environmentally sound decisions. The church is more energy efficient.

b. The Green-In (Oct., 20, 2007) increased congregation-wide, intergenerational awareness of and involvement in environmental issues.

c. One of the most important changes has been the church's ban on Styrofoam cups and change to permanent dishes, utensils, and glasses.

*\* 2. What has been the most difficult or challenging aspect of the program for your congregation to achieve?*

For the Task Force- understanding where passions lie among the members so that they might become more involved in actions. Although members expressed concerns about environmental issues at the March Forth service (2007) and at other times, it has been difficult keeping a large enough membership in the Environmental Task Force to stay focused on achieving GS certification.

*\* 3. Have you been able to discern positive changes in your congregation's culture as a result of the activities you accomplished? If so, what are they?*

**REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE:**

The Board passed a policy in 2007 requested by us to commit to reduce, reuse, and recycle, and the congregation has been putting this into practice. We are now paying more attention to the 7<sup>th</sup> principle.

a. We recycle paper, plastic and cans.

We have recycling bins for paper in every classroom, copy room and staff offices, library, lounge, and kitchen. We have signs asking people to turn off lights in each of the classrooms and many of the public rooms.

We have clearly marked the recycling bins in the kitchen to say paper or commingled materials and we have a poster on a bulletin board reminding people to recycle.

b. Reduced amount of paper: We have reduced the amount of paper that we use. We have added an e-newsletter, and our hard copy newsletter used to come out every week. Now it comes out every 3 weeks, and people can opt to get the e-newsletter instead. One of the drawers of the copy machine contains recycled paper.

c. Reduced use of energy: The Facilities Committee has done a great deal to make the church more energy efficient and to conserve energy. (See section on sustainable living on pages 11-12 Project #3 for specifics.)

d. Reduced garbage: We now compost vegetables.

e. Use of permanent dishes, utensils, and glasses:

1) Coffee cups: We eliminated Styrofoam coffee cups in 2006. We then used cardboard cups 2006-09. For the past year we have been using ceramic mugs, which were donated by church members.

2) For the past year (2009-10) many committees and events have used permanent dishes, utensils, and glasses at their functions. They have learned how to use the dish washer and are now recruiting members to wash dishes.

f. Reduced toxins:

The ETF and the Facilities Committee both attempted to get the church to use non-toxic cleaners in 2007, but there was lack of communication between the two and we have continued to use toxic cleaners. We started using non-toxic detergent in 2009 to wash coffee cups whenever the church administrator bought it. Starting momentarily we will, hopefully, use only non-toxic cleaning supplies purchased through Dade Paper, which provides the cleaners and containers for Whole Foods.

Other changes in the church culture:

1. Legislative: Providing letters for members of the congregation to sign on state legislative issues pertaining to the environment increases awareness of the way laws are made.

2. Ethical eating and eating lower on the food chain is becoming part of our church culture. There have two vegetarian/vegan potluck dinners, three adult education classes on this, and we showed “Food, Inc.” to a group of 71 people (most of whom were not church members) and showed the movie “Asparagus” to a group of 30 members. We are exploring growing vegetables in conjunction with a non-profit called Montgomery Victory Gardens and Master Gardeners.

*\* 4. What are your intentions/aspirations for continuing to live out your Green Sanctuary commitments?*

As part of the celebration that we will have when we are certified, we will adapt the large bookmarks done by All Souls UU Church in Washington, DC. These will list our major accomplishments so members and people in the community will know ways in which we have changed the church culture.

After we are certified we will focus more on getting members of the congregation to incorporate sustainable living into their personal lives. We will continue to provide “Green tips” in the newsletter and e-newsletter. We expect that the Adult Education program and Forums will continue to provide environmental programs.

*\* 5. What on-going role do you expect your congregation will take in the wider community relative to environmental issues? How do you feel recognition as a Green Sanctuary affects your position in the community?*

We will continue to advocate for environmental bills in the Maryland General Assembly and the Montgomery County Council. We will continue to clean Rock Creek, in conjunction with Friends of Rock Creek Environment twice a year.

Certification as a Green Sanctuary will give us the recognition in the community that we deserve. We have done a lot and we want people in the wider community to know it. We will contact our local newspaper to let them know when we are certified.

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### **Accomplishment of Program Goals**

1. Build awareness of the significance and complexity of environmental issues.  
The education for adults, children, and intergenerational activities all inform people about the complexity of environmental issues.

2. Encourage personal lifestyle changes.  
Many of the Adult Ed classes do this.

3. To motivate UU's to community action on environmental issues.  
The Green-In provided information about green businesses in the food, home, and energy

efficiency areas, and it increased interest in them among all ages. One of our state legislators talked about the bill that she had just passed on stormwater management.

4. To build a connection between spiritual practice and environmental consciousness.

Spiritual practice is being reverent and mindful of the preciousness (sacredness) of all that sustains healthy life. Many of the prayers and readings offered during services and other gatherings evoke reverence. Most recently the appreciative grace said before a Vegan Potluck supper for about 30 church members.

5. To build awareness of and rectify environmental injustices

a. The Environmental Task Force is under the auspices of the Social Justice Committee, Cedar Lane is a member in the local Greater Washington Power and Light. (GWIPL), and one of the co-chairs is on the GWIPL board. Some members of the Social Justice Council helped with the Beacon House recycling project with children during their camp. We do the Rock Creek cleanup with Friends of Rock Creek (the FORCE).

b. The ETF promoted an understanding of global warming and the need to become more energy efficient, both at church and at home.

6. One of the most important changes has been the church's ban on Styrofoam cups and change to permanent dishes, utensils, and glasses.

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**Application Instructions:**

Using this format, submit your electronic application to [greensanctuary@uaa.org](mailto:greensanctuary@uaa.org). Robin Nelson is the Program Manager for Congregational Stewardship Services at the UUA.

**Appendix: Our Main Environmental Justice Project:  
Beacon House Recycling Project with Children and Teens**

**Three part series with the children during camp (ages 5-12):**

1. Class 1:

Opener: “The earth as an apple”

Field trip to the Prince George’s County landfill and Prince George’s County Recycling Center, with talks at both of them. We saw material being recycled on conveyor belts and heard a talk about specific bottles and cans that can be recycled and made into new products.

We had a recycling contest in which we provided banana boxes for them to put their recycled materials in. We gave each child who participated a stainless steel water bottle. We took photos of the field trip. We gave each child a reusable grocery bag, and encouraged them to use them, instead of paper and plastic bags.

2. Class 2:

We went to the Earth Conservation Corps on the Anacostia River in Washington, DC, and heard a talk about the importance of cleaning the river so fish can live in it. We saw raptors (an owl, Harris hawk) and a snake.

3. Class 3:

“Talking trash” by a member of the Alice B. Ferguson Foundation, which encourages people to reduce, reuse, and recycle. We picked up trash in the Beacon House neighborhood.

**Six part series on recycling with the teenagers:**

Class 1: Oct. 13, 2009: Lesson plan for the Introductory Recycling Class With Beacon House Xtreme Teens.

Why recycle? (35 min.) Reduce, reuse, and recycle. Don't waste things. Recycling is the last step. (35 min.)

Ask the kids why they think that people should recycle. (10 min.):

- a. Reduce trash,
- b. Turn recycled material into energy, and
- c. Make useful things.

Ask them what they do to recycle. (5 min.) The teens thought of many ways to recycle.

Do they know anyone who recycles? School? Church? Beacon House?

Tell them what we do to recycle:

- a. Recycle newspapers and bottles, cans, and glass.
- b. Wear recycled clothes from second hand stores.
- c. Donate and buy books from the Friends of the Wheaton Regional Library.
- d. Recycle old cell phones, TVs, computers, printers, other electronics, car batteries at the transfer station.
- e. Recycle small batteries (A, AA, AAA, B, C, D) at My Organic Market.
- f. Recycle ink cartridges at Cartridge World in Rockville.

For the next month we will take your old cell phones, batteries, and cartridges to recycle at Cedar Lane.

What happens if we don't recycle? Landfills are filling up fast and there isn't much land left to put them. We are shipping electronics to China and other third world countries.

We are all in this together. We all need to work on this to save the planet. Our actions all make a difference.

Give them fun facts, such as recycling a Coke can power a TV for 3 hours.

Ask questions and get their answers. (10 min.)

Show them things made out of recycled materials (e.g., a sample of Trex.) (5 min.)

Hand out pictures of what people can and can't recycle in D.C. and go over it. Call D.C. Recycles to get them. William Easley, Dir. (202) 645-7191, Russell Klein, Dir. of Educ. (10 min.)

2. We want you to get excited about recycling, and get your parents to recycle. Kids often get their parents to change their behavior, especially about environmental things. We are all in this together. The recycling contest and hand out the boxes, stickers, grocery bags, and folders. (10 min.)

3. How can we increase the amount of recycling that people can do? (Ask for their ideas.)

We all make a difference. (20 min.)

Educate people about it (like getting you interested).  
Introduce legislation to encourage or require it.

4. Introduce the recycling contest. We gave each teen a banana box in which they put their recycled materials, and we gave each person who participated a stainless steel water bottle. Each week the teens we sorted the recycled material that they had collected. We handed out reusable grocery bags donated by grocery stores, and encourage them to use them, instead of paper or plastic bags.

Time involved: (1 1/2 hr. class)

Our plans for the recycling program: 10 min.

Recycling contest: 15 min.

Increasing recycling: 20 min.

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Total= 1 1/4 hrs. (leaves 15 min. extra)

Class 2: Oct. 20—Reviewed recycling from first session and sorted recycled materials.

Biodegradable vs. non-biodegradable materials:

Some of the teens looked at the exercise of materials which cannot be recycled from Journey for the Planet. This lesson is from eco-experiment # 1 BACK TO THE EARTH to show that some things are "biodegradable (which means they eventually break down and go back to the Earth). Which of the following are biodegradable? Which are not? I used an apple core, a leaf of lettuce, some plastic packaging, a piece of Styrofoam. Used were a planter to receive the apple and lettuce leaf and a trash can for the plastics for recycling.

We described the recently enacted D.C. bag bill which imposes a 5 cent fee for each bag. We read the bill aloud to help them become aware of the importance of avoiding plastic and paper bags. We gave them reusable grocery bags for their family shopping.

Each week for 6 weeks we separated glass, aluminum and paper that the teens had collected in the banana boxes that we provided for them, complementing each one, and giving each one a water bottle for recycling.

Class 3: Oct. 27: Creative recycling expressions: Create (stencil) one's own recycled t- shirt and newspaper clothes. This was very popular as a participatory activity.

Class 4: Fri., Oct. 30: Field trip and talk by professional recycler

Visit Fort Totten and have picnic at the National Arboretum. The two managers of the Fort Totten Landfill described the dump trucks hauling away trash heaps to permanent landfills. An Arboretum gardener described the youth garden. Coy fish were an added attraction.

Russell Kline, Recycling educator from the District of Columbia Environment Dept. gave a "show and tell" presentation which was VERY thoughtful and engaging for MOST of the young persons. Additional younger kids attended this presentation.

Russell Kline showed us pictures and objects made from recycled materials, and handed out pictures of what people can and can't recycle in D.C. and pencils made from recycled blue jeans.

After some of these programs The ETF members visited the management of the Edgewood Terrace apartment complex where the UU Beacon House rents space. After requests from Beacon House's director backed up by Cedar Lane's ETF, the management has provided recycle bins and toters for Beacon House.

Class 5: Nov. 3: Finished t-shirts, sorted recycled materials that they brought in, and commented on the large amount of plastic that was brought in every week.

Class 6: Nov. 10: Closing celebration for staff and board with smoothies made by the teens. This was very popular, with awards of recycling bags for all.

Open mic and closing celebration: What you have learned about recycling.

Many X-Treme Teens enthusiastically participated, with some reading, some rapping their rhymes, poems and short stories about recycling. One boy sang his own farewell memorial song to one of the X-Tremes who had been shot and killed by a drive by shooter a few days before our recycling program started.