

3/20/10



Green Sanctuary
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
Congregational Stewardship Services
25 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108
617.948.4251

Application for Green Sanctuary Accreditation

I. Congregation Information:

Congregation Name Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Eastern Slopes (UUFES)	
Address P.O. Box 474 30 Tamworth Road Tamworth, NH 03886	
Web site www.uufes.org	
Green Sanctuary contact Nancy Byrd	
Address 85 Mirror Lake Drive Mirror Lake, NH 03853	
Phone Home: 603 515 0025, Cell phone: 603 393 2817	
Email <hr/>	
Minister or Congregation Leader Rev. Mary Giles Edes	

Congregation Profile:

The Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of the Eastern Slopes (UUFES) is a friendly, welcoming community, which fosters liberal religious living through worship, study, service and fellowship. The original Unitarian-Fellowship of the Eastern Slopes met in

members' homes around North Conway NH through the 1960s but then ceased. The Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of the Eastern Slopes was formed on June 2 1980. The members and friends met biweekly in the Conway Congregational Church under the leadership of extension minister, Rev. Chandler Newton and lay leader Rod Forsman. After several ministers and meeting places, UUFES called Rev. Mary Giles Edes to be our minister in 2003 and purchased and renovated our present meeting space in Tamworth Village in 2005. At the UUA General Assembly of 2006, UUFES was named a Breakthrough Congregation. Rev. Mary Edes is our current full time minister. Our membership exceeds 100 people.

This gem of a congregation, located in central New Hampshire, has contributed heavily to ecological justice causes. Sadly, UUFES and the environmental movement lost two leading lights in 2009 with the deaths of George Zink and David Emerson. George's tireless efforts are best known for, but not limited to, those leading to congressional designation of the Sandwich Range Wilderness in 1984. Dave's poetry speaks for itself:

Think of me on summer nights,
 In fireflies and firelight.
 In dew-stained grass and morning mist,
 Leaf littered soil the frost has kissed.

When I am gone and earth ticks on,
 In syncopated marathon,
 Remember when my soul was young,
 And all life's songs had not been sung.

...

Beneath New Hampshire's ragged clouds,
 Look not for molding, tattered shrouds.
 My bier is of the vital earth;
 My veil the greening nascent turf.

Think of me on winter days,
 When snowdrifts rise and fires blaze.
 I am not gone. I live within
 The flame of life that burns again.

I include this here, not because it helps our application, but because it illustrates the beautiful spirit who graced us with his presence.

In October 2006, the UUFES Governing Board voted to begin the process of earning Green Sanctuary status. An ad hoc committee to begin the process was formed in January 2007 with Tony Federer as Chair. At the UUFES Annual Meeting on May 20, 2007, the congregation voted to amend the Bylaws to add a Green Sanctuary Committee as a Standing Committee of the Fellowship. The committee developed an Application for Green Sanctuary Candidacy, which was approved by the UUFES Governing Board on July 19, 2007 and submitted to UU Ministry for the Earth. On February 15, 2009, Nancy Byrd replaced Tony Federer as Chair.

After we submitted our application for candidacy, responsibility for the Green Sanctuary program was transferred from UU Ministry for the Earth(UUMFE) to the UUA, and we did not receive written notification that our application for candidacy had been approved until late 2009.

We understand that the Green Sanctuary process is designed to involve the whole congregation. Learning to live lightly and sustainably on Earth is not an action that can be carried out by an individual or a small committee meeting in a back room. The Green Sanctuary Committee conducts open meetings to encourage and record its progress and the progress of the congregation. The Committee is open to all and *de facto* includes anyone who shows up at any Committee meeting. Accordingly, participation in the projects is open to all. We are a small congregation; without full participation of the congregation, we would not have been able to accomplish our goals.

Congregational Vote(s):

Excerpt from the minutes of May 20, 2007 (with corrections):

Greenhalgh presents by-law amendment to article 6, section 3, to add green sanctuary committee to list of standing committees.

Rick Friend moved to accept. Bill Lotz, second.

Discussion:

Tony Federer: There was a handout (Attachment 1) as an annual report from the ad hoc green sanctuary committee. The board voted to have UUFES move toward green sanctuary accreditation. Process has been started. Requirements toward accreditation include making the committee a permanent standing committee, so UUFES must pass the amendment to establish the committee in order to achieve green sanctuary accreditation. This makes it a core principal of UUFES as well.

Vote taken, passed unanimously.

On July 19, 2007, the UUFES Governing adopted the following purposes of the Green Sanctuary Committee (See attachment 2):

1. To build awareness of sustainability, environmental, and ecojustice issues within the congregation and the community;
2. To encourage the Fellowship to utilize "green" practices and products in its building and grounds;
3. To generate commitment to personal lifestyle changes that reduce adverse impacts on the earth;
4. To develop ecospirituality in worship and religious education;

5. To lead the congregation in the process of gaining accreditation as a Green Sanctuary.

On March 8, 2010, the board of directors approved this application to be posted on the UUFES web site and to be submitted to the membership for final approval at the annual meeting and submission to the UUA.

On May 23, 2010, at the Annual Meeting, the UUFES congregation is expected to vote to submit this document (Application for Green Sanctuary Accreditation) to the UUA for approval. Note that this may not yet have occurred.

Communication Plan:

Plan As Proposed:

UUFES currently has seven methods for communication:

- *Inclinations* – a monthly email and hard-copy newsletter
- Friday MailPouch – a weekly email newsletter
- www.uufes.org - a web site
- Order of Service
- Announcements during service
- Flyers distributed on several tables
- Bulletin boards both in the sanctuary and downstairs.

The Fellowship has a Communications Committee that oversees these and suggests modifications. The Green Sanctuary Committee will have a representative on the Communications Committee (*committee no longer exists*).

- The Green Sanctuary Committee will submit at least one item for each issue of *Inclinations* that is connected to one or more projects.
- The Committee will find someone else to take over the non-UUFES environmental information that editor David Emerson has been including in the Friday MailPouch.
- The Committee will create and modify a Green Sanctuary page on the web site.
- The Committee will produce a “green” bulletin board.

These forms of communication with the congregation will include information about the Green Sanctuary process and its projects, about changing personal habits and life styles, and about local and regional green events and issues.

What we have done:

In 2007

- September 2007 - Green Sanctuary page was added to the UUFES web site.

- Friday MailPouch (weekly email) containing non-UUFES environmental information during 2007

Sample items:

- Reducing Pollution From Unpaved Roads, Tin Mountain Conservation Center, Aug. 25, 2007
- Review of "Cape Wind: Money, Celebrity, Class, Politics and the Battle for Our Energy Future on Nantucket Sound" by Wendy Williams and Robert Whitcomb about the plan to build a wind farm off Nantucket. August 23, 2007
- Comments on methane and moose. August 23, 2007
- Tin Mountain Conservation Center nature walks and talks, Sept 13, 2007
- Review of "The Organic Lawn Care Manual" by Paul Tukey, Sept 27, 2007
- Comment on insulation and sealing air leaks, Oct 4, 2007
- Global Warming and Energy Solutions Conference, Manchester, Oct. 12/13, 2007.
- Step it Up Rally to End Global Warming, Manchester, Nov. 3, 2007
- Green Sanctuary table at the UUFES October committee fair October 21, 2007.
- Green Sanctuary functions, such as NWEI courses advertised in local papers to gain participation by local community. This successfully attracted a number of folks from outside of UUFES
- At the November 2007 Semi-Annual Meeting the Long-Range Planning Committee reported one of five long-range UUFES goals as awareness of the environmental effects of everything that UUFES does

In 2008

- November 2008 - Green Sanctuary bulletin board has been installed in the entry hall.
- Friday MailPouch (weekly email) containing non-UUFES environmental information continued
- "Greenclination" column in *Inclinations* monthly newsletter maintained for year 2008.
- Green Sanctuary functions, continue to be advertised in local papers and local list serves to gain participation by local community.

In 2009

- Green Sanctuary bulletin board has been maintained throughout 2009.
- Green Sanctuary table was held at the UUFES October committee fair in 2009.
- "Greenclination" column in *Inclinations* monthly newsletter maintained for year 2009.
- Friday MailPouch (weekly email) containing non-UUFES environmental information continued after death of Dave Emerson.
- Green Sanctuary functions, continue to be advertised in local papers and local list serves to gain participation by local community.
- Discussion and video report of Michael Pollan's book, *In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto*, advertised in many local papers, Nov. 2009.

II. Completion of Action Plan:

Worship and Celebration Projects (2 required)

Project Title:

1. REGULAR WORSHIP - *Incorporate Sustainable And Earth-Centered Principles And Practices Into Regular Worship*

Leader: Rev. Mary Giles Edes

Project As Proposed:

Recruit members and Friends of UUFES to form a Writers' group for the purpose of creating Earth-centered writings for regular use on Sunday morning: chalice lighting, meditations, opening words, songs, etc.

What we have done:

- August 9, 2007 and October 11, 2007, Rev. Mary Giles Edes entered the following into the Friday MailPouch - "As a part of the Green Sanctuary program, I am hoping to collect a variety of original and "found" writings that we might use during Sunday services for chalice lightings, opening words, meditations, and benedictions. These may be your own words, or favorite brief poems, or phrases that you have found inspirational. They should focus the attention of the congregation on our interdependence with the earth, our place in the cosmos, our common heritage in the family of ten thousand things. ...
- Songs have been written by Mary Edes and sung several times during 2009:
 - “Rising Holy from the Ground”
 - “Great Heart of the Universe”
- Readings collected: short statements by various authors (a continually growing collection)
- February 15, 2009 Sermon by Rev. Edes on “To Save or to Savor, a Valentine for Mother Earth” with reading “Be a Friend to Trees”
- June 21 2009: “Heat and Light” On the first day of summer, Rev. Edes considered the symbolic, the sacred, the science of the sun and our dependence on it.
- June 14, 2009: “Where Have We Come From?” In marking the anniversary of UUFES’ move to Tamworth, Rev. Mary reflected on the past, present, and future possibilities of UUFES. In describing the future of our congregation, the sermon put forth an idea of a “slow congregation” compared to the “slow food” and “slow money” movements. This was an inspired exploration into sustainability.

Project Title:

2. GREEN SERVICES - *Plan And Conduct Four Green Sunday Services Per Year*

Project Leader: Ingrid Albee, Sunday Services Committee

Project As Proposed:

UUFES conducts green services on a regular basis. This May 27 we are dedicating a service in honor of Rachel Carson. Another ecumenical Earth Day service is planned. The religious education year will be kicked off with a service by Connie Barlow presenting "The Great Story". In addition we do a yearly Water Communion. The Green Sanctuary Committee will work with the Minister to arrange outside speakers for at least 2 Sunday services a year on environmental and ecojustice topics, including but not limited to the UU Service Committee. We anticipate further integration of Green Sanctuary concepts into each worship service as well as continuing entire services dedicated toward these principles.

What we have done:

- May 27, 2007 Service in honor of Rachel Carson
- Aug 12, 2007 Hosting the The World Drum, which has been traveling around the globe to heighten awareness of the peril Mother Earth is facing
- Sept 2, 2007 Service by Mark Stowbridge "The Stars, The Universe, and Everything"
- Sept 16, 2007 Service by Rev. Michael Dowd "The Great Story: Bridging Diversity, Inspiring Celebration, Empowering Great Work"
- Sept 23, 2007 Water Communion
- Oct 9, 2007 Blessing of the Animals
- March 30, 2008 Service by Alan Cantor, "Maimonides and Mobile Home Parks", on community investing
- April 20, 2008 Earth Day Service – Reading "The Great Kapok Tree", Sermon "In Praise Of the Well Dressed Planet"
- May 4 2008: Guest Speaker Craig Lentz, Executive Director of Ferry Beach - "I Brought My Spirit to the Sea: Stories of Transformation from Ferry Beach." Ferry Beach, is a unique Unitarian Universalist Conference Center on the coast of Southern Maine.
- August 31, 2008 Service by Christopher Williams, "Sustainable Design: The Tin Mountain Story, with Dick Cary, "Recycling the Old: The UUFES Meeting House."
- September 7, 2008 Service by Dr. Caroline Snyder, "The Courage to Confront Fraud, Power, and Deception: Restoring Integrity to the Nation's Environmental Agencies."
- September 14, 2008 Ingathering and Annual Water Communion.
- December 21 2008 : Solstice Celebration with Beverly Woods, Seth Austen, Rev. Mary, and Suzy Kjellberg.
- April 19, 2009 Earth Day service led by Nancy Byrd with her sermon "Our Planet's Web of Life – How Do We Fit?"

- August 2009: “Stewardship as a Way of Life,” Sandra Carr, Dick Byrd, Betsy Loughran
- September 20 2009: “Summer Remembered and Autumn Welcomed In,” Annual Water Communion with Rev. Mary Giles Edes

Note:

- Almost every service has an environmental component, but obtaining four lay led Sunday services dedicated to environmental issues has not been possible. We therefore lowered this requirement to 3 lay-led services and/or several additional, collaborative environmental services.

Religious Education, 3 projects (2 required)

Project Title:

3. FIELD TRIPS - *Arrange Environmental Field Trips For All Ages*

Leader: Jolene Twombly-Wiser (Director of Religious Education, replacing Joy Maidment)

Project As Proposed:

It is our intention to go outside with the children at least once seasonally during the Religious Exploration hour to experience our immediate environment and the seasonal changes to that environment in order to foster a love of the outdoors and a sense of place. Other trips and outdoor services will be designed for both children and adults.

What we have done:

- March 16, 2008- Snowshoe/Ski trek for tracks and signs of spring – about 20 adults and youth
- May 4, 2008 - Bird walk for two children and two adults (in rain)
- August 31, 2008 – Tin Mountain Conservation Center for sustainable building tour
- Spring 2009 – Claes Thelemarck and class trekked to a nearby vernal pool where they observed salamander eggs, woodfrog eggs, spotted and brown-back salamanders, garter snakes, and lots of spring plant life.
- September 13, 2009 – Hikes following UUFES service.
- Sept. 11 to Sept.13 2009 – Ferry Beach weekend, a tradition at UUFES, is a family retreat on the coast of Maine.

Project Title:

4. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - *Greening The RE Curriculum*

Leader: Jolene Twombly-Wiser, Director of Religious Education, replacing Joy Maidment in 2008)

Project As Proposed:

The focus of our children's' Religious Exploration program for the coming year 2007/2008 will be twofold, we will be learning about the Unitarian Universalist Principles and The Great Story. These choices reflect the desire to connect who we are with where we came from. Our Principles will be experienced through the SpiritPlay model with a special emphasis not only on the Seventh Principle but also on the connectedness of ourselves, our principles and our planet. The Great Story will be experienced through various means including but not limited to SpiritPlay, The Kids Book of Awesome Stuff, and The Great Story web site. Timeline: September 2007 - June 2008

What we have done:

- October 2007 - May 2008 The K-3 Spirit Play class focused on the Seven Principles and The Great Story.
- November 2007 The objectives of the third Sunday class have been set as:
 - to help build a sense of wonder about our world,
 - to help generate a basic understanding of nature and our place in it,
 - to generate a sense of curiosity and a desire to ask questions and find answers about our world.
- September 21, 2008 – Trail walk at Remick Museum for all children.
- September 2008 – May 2009 Children in grades 4 and up use the In Our Hands curriculum about peace and justice, including relationship with our environment.
- November 2008 – May 2009 – R.E. classes on outdoor walks the first Sunday of every month, alternating younger and older groups.
- February 2009 – RE students considered what their environmental messages to adults should be, writing their ideas down and sharing them with classmates
- June 27, 2009 – RE students participated in a Council of the Animals session based on Joanna Macy's "Council of all Beings."

Project Title:

**5. PUBLIC OUTREACH - *Arrange Study Groups
And/Or Public Talks***

Project Leader: Suzanne Federer

Project As Proposed:

Work in conjunction with the RE Director to arrange study groups for adults in the Fellowship, and to extend this opportunity to others in the community, at least one study group in UUFES and one in the community each year. Sponsor or co-sponsor public talks on environmental/eco-justice issues to be held at UUFES, at least one per year.

What we have done:

- Fall 2007 - Community study group - NWEI Choices for Sustainable Living.
- September 17, 2007 - Workshop by Rev. Michael Dowd "THANK GOD FOR EVOLUTION! How Science and Religion Are Spurring Each Other to Greatness."
- March 28, 2008 - UUFES pot-luck supper and slide show by Flo Reed of Sustainable Harvest International.
- April 13, 2008 – Special Collection reached beyond our local community to support Sustainable Harvest International (SHI).
- Spring 2008 – “Healthy Child, Healthy Planet” discussion group facilitated by UUFES's RE Director, Joy Maidment at the Met in North Conway.
- Spring 2008 - Community study group - NWEI “Sense of Place” (2 groups).
- Fall 2008 – Community study group at Tamworth Library – NWEI “Menu for the Future” (food).
- November 16, 2008 - Talk at UUFES by Nancy Byrd on “Climate Change”
- December 7, 2008 - Talk at UUFES by Dick Byrd on “Alternatives for Transportation”
- January 25, 2009 – 11:30 am, Brown bag lunch and speaker sponsored by Green Sanctuary Committee – slide show and discussion of green building.
- February 22, 2009 – Talk at UUFES by Tony Federer on his book *Ecoshift: The Movement That Is Transforming the Relation of Humanity to Earth*.
- March 22, 2009 – Talk at UUFES by Dick Byrd on “Alternatives for Energy Use in the United States”
- November 15, 2009 – Book discussion of *In Defence of Food: An Eater’s Manifesto* by Michael Pollan facilitated by Suzanne Federer

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

Project Title:

6. RESPONSIBLE INVESTING - *Sponsor Talks, Individual, And Community Action On Responsible Investing*

Project Leader: Martha Chandler

Project As Proposed:

We will seek to make current (limited) and future UUFES investments socially-responsible. We will develop an e-mail list of members and friends interested in socially-responsible investing and will arrange speakers and discussion groups both within the Fellowship and in the community.

What we have done:

- November 2007 - UUFES Board voted to transfer \$5000 of UUFES funds to the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund. The UUA matched this amount.
- March 30, 2008 – Sunday service by Alan Cantor, NH Community Loan Fund on community investing.
- March 30, 2008 – Discussion after Alan Cantor service.
- Fall 2008 – Economy tanks; many members reel with the effects.

Project Title:

7. UUFES GROUNDS - *Develop UUFES And Adjacent Grounds As Green Space For Various Purposes*

Project Leader: formerly Claes Thelemark

Project As Proposed:

This project will lead the whole congregation in open discussion and planning of future uses for the "back yard" of the fellowship property. The project will make recommendations to be approved by the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Board, and the congregation before any work begins. Some possible uses include an area for meditation, a natural area for children to play and learn in the outdoors, an organic garden and compost bins, plantings of native species, a yurt for small meetings, and bird houses, as well as possible expansion of our building and the parking lot.

What we have done:

- October 7, 2007 - Worked with Building & Grounds Committee to clean up back yard.
- March 2008 - Developed Green Space and Grounds Survey for UUFES members.
- June 15, 2008 - Report on survey completed, distributed, and published in July *Inclinations*.
- November 2008 – Completed an engineering site plan of the grounds including septic, propane, electric, paved, building (Doug Burnell and John Chandler).
- December 31, 2008 – Simplified site plan for planning purposes produced from engineering map
- August, September 2009 – distributed site plan and survey results with request that congregants draw what they would like to see in Green Space development
- October 18, 2009 – GSC passed resolution to take soil samples of grounds. This has been postponed until later in the process.
- December 13, 2009 – combined meeting of GSC with Building and Grounds committee to move forward on grounds landscaping. Meeting appointed a committee to prepare a landscape design, seeking guidance from landscape architects, environmentalists, master gardeners and neighbors.

To be completed:

- Preparation of landscape design. This design will reflect the wishes of the congregation as indicated in the survey of spring 2008. This design will also integrate with the larger environment with wildlife and people friendly features.
- Congregational open meeting to discuss plans.
- Plan revisions as required by wishes and resources available.
- Recommendations to be approved by the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Green Sanctuary Committee and Board.
- Approval of plan at congregational meeting.
- Execution.

Project Title:

8. COMMUNITY COOPERATION - *Cooperate And Support Community Efforts*

Project Leader: John and Cathy Mersfelder

Project As Proposed:

This project will seek out ways to interact with the larger community. Several examples are already in the works. UUFES will host the Tamworth farmers' market this summer. We will help with fundraising to purchase a conservation easement on the Birches Intervale Farm in Wonalancet. UUFES already has members who are involved with Sustainable Tamworth, which concentrates on locally-grown food, and other

environmentally-based community organizations: conservation commissions, land trusts, and outdoor groups. Other possible organizations to cooperate with include Tin Mountain Conservation Center in Albany and Global Awareness Local Action in Wolfeboro.

What we have done:

- Summer 2007 - Hosted Tamworth Farmer's Market at UUFES weekly for 4 months.
- July 2007 - Special Sunday collection for conservation easement on Birches Intervale Farm in Sandwich raised \$1500.
- August 19, 2007 - Ten UUFES CROP walkers and a special Sunday collection raised \$1900 for awareness of hunger and its causes.
- April 13, 2008 - Special Sunday collection raised \$439 for Sustainable Harvest International.
- Saturday, June 7 2008, from 9 am until noon, UUFES held a plant sale open to the public as a fundraiser for landscape needs of the Meetinghouse.
- Summer 2008 - Hosted Tamworth Farmer's Market at UUFES weekly for 4 months.
- September 28, 2008 Special Sunday collection raised \$316 for UU Ministry for Earth
- Summer 2009 – Hosting Tamworth Farmers' Market at UUFES weekly for 4 months.

UUFES members active in other organizations

- Sandwich-Tamworth Renewable Energy Initiative - Carl McNall
- Green Mountain Conservation Group - Jim Pittman, Lyn Slanetz
- Sustainable Tamworth - John and Cathy Mersfelder, Margaret Rieser, Claes and Vikki Thelemarck, Missy Myers and others. This local Tamworth organization seeks, in their own words,
 “to increase both our supply and consumption of Local Food as a stepping stone toward a more Sustainable Tamworth (area) all around. This may be essential for the survival of our favorite planet as well as our favorite town.”
- Mirror Lake Protective Association – Nancy and Dick Byrd (water monitoring)
- Tamworth Conservation Commission – Margaret Rieser, associate members – Claes Thelemarck and John Mersfelder.
- Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests – Martha Chandler (various committees)
- Silver Lake Association of Madison – Lyn Slanetz (water monitoring)
- Tin Mountain Conservation Center – many UUFES members (Several UUFES members offer environmental classes to the public through this center.)
- Gilman Forest Project – John Mersfelder, chair
- Whites to Ossipees Connectivity Project– this project, of which the Gilman Forest Project is a part, is an association of environmental organizations, including many of the above, the link,

<http://www.tamworthconservationcommission.org/specialprojects.html>

describes it; a number of UUFES members are active in the project, including John Mersfelder, Willie Farnum, Jim Pittman and Martha Chandler. This project is the most significant environmental project in New Hampshire. It seeks to create a wildlife corridor connecting the White Mountains to the Ossipee range.

Sustainable Living (2 required)

Project Title:

9. GREEN PURCHASING - *Utilize Green Purchasing and Use of Green Products Throughout The Fellowship*

Project Leader: needs leader, but functioning without one

Project As Proposed:

The scope of this project will strive to balance environmental and fiscal responsibilities in making green purchasing decisions. We will purchase products with the highest percentage recycled content available provided that the products meet acceptable use and performance standards. In addition, UUFES will strive to purchase materials that are:

1. Durable, as opposed to single use or disposable items
2. Non-toxic or minimally toxic, preferably biodegradable
3. Highly energy-efficient
4. Recyclable, but if not recyclable, may be disposed of safely
5. Made from raw materials that have been obtained in an environmentally sound, sustainable manner
6. Manufactured in an environmentally sound manner
7. Locally-produced
8. Causing minimal or no environmental damage during normal use or maintenance
9. Shipped with minimal packaging (consistent with care of the product), preferably made of recycled and or recyclable materials.

What we have done:

- Continuing – Sexton tries to buy environmentally-friendly cleaning supplies and paper goods.
- Occasional - Signs at coffee hour about why we are not using paper/plastic.
- May 2008 –\$50 added to Buildings and Grounds budget for extra cost of green purchasing
- July 2008 – Began selling Equal Exchange coffee to members, friends, and at Tamworth Farmers Market. UUSC partnered with Equal Exchange, a worker-owned fair trade organization founded in 1986. Buying coffee, tea and cocoa directly from farmer cooperatives, Equal Exchange follows the standards and principles of fair trade on 100 percent of its products, ensuring that low-income farmers earn a fair price for their products. UUFES purchases from UUSC.

- May 2009 – Began using “Ecotainer” cups from Equal Exchange for coffee hour. This product substitutes for the ceramic cups. People are still encouraged to use ceramic cups, but an efficient dishwashing capability is not possible with present building constraints.
- Summer 2009 – Began recycling all disposable cups and plates from coffee hour.
- January 2010 – We posted suggested guidelines for purchasing on bulletin board.

Ongoing

- Investigate possible sources and prices for environmentally friendly products. This has been done, periodically.
- Use of recycled-content office paper, stationary, envelopes without windows, Order of Service.
- Church suppers –we ask people to bring their own place settings and silver.
- Purchase products with the highest recycled content while meeting use and performance standards. Develop list of supplies currently purchased including cleaning supplies and current suppliers and prices. Although we make efforts to comply with this item, our documentation of the efforts could be better. The Environmental Audit of August, 2007 gives much of this detail.

Project Title:

10. ENERGY USE - *Minimize Energy Consumption In The Fellowship*

Project Leaders: Richard Cary, AIA, Bill Lotz, PE and Building and Grounds Committee

Project As Proposed:

The scope of this project is to identify and implement ways to reduce energy consumption. All aspects of electricity usage, building heating and domestic hot water consumption will be looked at. Means of reduction will include the mundane (i.e. signs to shut off lights) to capital improvements (i.e. on demand domestic hot water system). Comparisons of past usage will be charted against present usage.

What we have done:

In 2001, The Long Range Planning Committee was charged with finding a permanent home for the expanding congregation. Options included new construction on a wooded site of at least four acres or purchase and renovation of an existing building. Preference was for new construction. After three years of search and analysis, an old school house on a one acre site in Tamworth Village was purchased in the fall of 2004 and renovated for our use.

The building, constructed in 1906 as a four classroom elementary school, had most recently been owned by a community hospital. The entry floor served as a day clinic, with reception, doctor’s office, exam rooms and toilets. With minor modifications, it was suitable for the minister’s office, RE program, meetings and library. The second floor

had two rental apartments. This space was gutted and redesigned as the sanctuary with seating capacity of about 90; a lift was installed for the mobility impaired.

In retrospect, the decision to restore an otherwise unoccupied building dear to the community was perhaps our most socially and ecologically responsible act, and was accomplished at a fraction of the financial cost and ecological impact of new construction.

Energy saving upgrades were made between 2004 and 2007 by UUFES and include the following:

- New exterior doors and weather-stripping,
 - New high efficiency propane boiler,
 - Replacement of basement water heaters with small point-of-use heaters,
 - New insulation in exterior walls and ceiling not previously insulated,
 - Dimmer control of new incandescent lighting in sanctuary,
 - Use of CFLs (compact fluorescent lights) where appropriate,
 - Use of double cell honeycomb blinds on windows in the sanctuary.
- July 2007 – Installed insulation on basement hot water pipes.
 - July 2008 – Dick Cary, with help from Bill Lotz, submitted an Energy Audit to the Board. This report detailed our existing energy status and made the following suggestions:
 - Replace fluorescent fixtures on first floor.
 - Further investigate possibility of storm windows. (This item still awaits funding.)
 - Recommended seasonal usage of existing window blinds.
 - November 2008 – Added blown-in insulation to alcove and office extension.
 - Spring 2009 – Recommended that window blinds be closed on north side of building, open on south side during winter.
 - Spring 2009 – Established guidelines for lighting , posted these on signs near switches, replaced incandescent bulbs with CFLs where possible.
 - February 2010 – Insulation of basement walls has been completed.

Project Title:

11. CHANGES AT HOME - *Challenge UUFES Congregants To Make Individual Changes At Home*

Project Leader: Tony Federer

Project As Proposed:

At least bimonthly this project will invite the congregation to focus on a single issue that hopefully will lead to more permanent changes. Possible issues/activities include but are not limited to sharing garden surpluses, alternative gift-giving, Buy Nothing Day, book and magazine swaps, bulk purchasing including coffee and light bulbs, carpooling to church, a mentoring program, a monthly sustainability meeting, and production and sale

of canvas grocery bags with logo as a UUFES fundraiser. Encourage congregants to read Tony Federer's web site at www.ecoshift.net.

What we have done:

- Book *Ecoshift: The Movement That Is Transforming the Relation of Humanity to Earth* by Tony Federer printed and made available to UUFES congregants
- “Grinclinations” (name changed later to “Greenclinations”, monthly column in *Inclinations* – by Tony Federer until Mar 2009

Sept 2007 -- The Great Story, creation, and ecocentrism

Oct 2007 -- Joining discussion/support groups

Nov 2007 -- Buy Nothing Day

Dec 2007 -- Alternative gifting

Jan 2008 -- Green resolutions

Feb 2008 – Fluorescent bulbs

Mar 2008 – Paper reduction

April 2008 – Recycling paper

May 2008 – Plastic

June 2008 – Gas and oil

July 2008 -- Fair Trade coffee

Aug 2008 -- none

Sept 2008 -- Local clothing

Oct 2008 – none

Nov 2008 – Deer season

Jan 2009 -- Our bioregion

Feb 2009 -- Ecocentrism

Mar 2009 -- Fuel mileage and weather by Dick Byrd

April 2009 -- Renaturalize your yard by Tony Federer

May 2009 -- Recycling - paper or plastic by Dick Byrd

June 2009 -- Paper or plastic? Neither! by Tony Federer

July 2009 --The Road to Green Sanctuary Certification by Nancy Byrd

Aug 2009 -- none

Sept 2009 -- Into the Woods by Tony Federer

Oct 2009 – none

Nov 2009 – none

Dec 2009 – none

Jan 2010 – none

Feb 2010 -- Small Changes at Home that can Make a Difference,
Part 1: Light Bulbs by Nancy Byrd

- January 2010 – Nancy Byrd assumed responsibility for Greenclinations.

Continuing

- June 22, 2008 to present –selling of Equal Exchange coffee at UUFES.

12. RECYCLING - *Develop Procedures For Reuse And Recycling In The Fellowship*

Project Leader: formerly Margaret Rieser, procedures in place and needing little oversight

Project As Proposed:

Procedures for reuse and recycling need to be developed, written, and overseen. Paper use will be reduced by changes in the Order of Service, encouraging e-mail distribution of *Inclinations*, and a "backside" pile. Collection bins need to be placed for recycling of paper, cans, glass, plastic, and cardboard, with someone responsible for processing them.

What we have done:

- August 2007 - Illegal fabric towels were eliminated.
- 2008 – Order of Service changed to one 8.5x14 sheet.
- March 2008 - Recycling bins placed on first and second floors.
- March 2008 - Sexton is responsible for taking recycled materials to transfer station.
- December 4, 2008 – Monthly newsletter, *Inclinations*, sent to 140 email addresses, so only 40 hard copies mailed.
- 2008 - Annual reports are emailed, with hard copy only on request.
- 2008 – Added instruction labels to recycling bins.
- 2008 – Established written recycling procedures.
- 2009 – Previously initiated recycling/reuse procedures continued.

III. Accomplishment of Program Goals

Many of the specific actions toward those goals, are documented above, under the headings, "What we have done" for each of the project headings under "Completion of Action Plan." These will help to clarify the percent achieved estimates that appear here. Many of these goals will never be achieved 100%, and most will require that we renew our efforts on a yearly basis.

- *To build awareness of societal environmental issues among UU's (80% achieved):*

UUFES is a green congregation. Its accomplishments and those of individuals in the congregation belie its small size. That our members could devote their lives to establishing a national wilderness area, a wildlife corridor linking the White Mountains with the Ossipee Mountains and write a resource book for environmental issues is amazing.

However, we can always do more. But the issues are complex, and opinions to the solutions for global warming and other environmental issues differ. For instance, like environmentalists in the larger world, we are divided on the efficacy of windmills in northern New Hampshire. We live in a cold, cloudy state. We are all aware that New Hampshire will solve its energy problems only with great difficulty. We attempt to be as informed as possible in the presence of increasing scientific knowledge. A challenge is to prevent those of us less scientifically informed from falling prey to those who would distort truth for their financial gain or ideology. We offer informative talks, hopefully to achieve that end. What degree we have achieved this goal is difficult to evaluate.

- *To generate commitment for personal lifestyle changes (80% achieved):*

Many members are already “walking the walk.” We came to New Hampshire so that we could be better environmentalists. A number of us are organic farmers; almost all love the outdoors and lead groups to the enjoyment of it. A few of us have built houses “off the grid.” But many of us are also old, and we compromise our environmental responsibilities at the doorstep of our creeping infirmities. We struggle with this. We challenge ourselves to keep improving at home, to reduce our environmental footprints. Our newsletter column, “Greenclinations”, often addresses this issue.

- *To motivate UU's to community action on environmental issues (60% achieved, some people are not environmentally active; some have committed their lives to such action):*

We sponsor talks to publicize the activities of environmental groups throughout New England. We have sponsored courses, such as those from the Northwest Earth Institute (through its sister organization, the Granite Earth Institute). We host the Tamworth Farmers' Market in season. These activities are announced in service and by other means and serve to inspire others to become involved.

- *To build a connection between spiritual practice and environmental consciousness. (90% achieved):*

Our minister, Rev. Mary Giles Edes, is fully in tune with the 7th principle. Every service has some environmental message woven into the fabric of the main message of the day. Her music and poetry well complement the sentiments expressed. She has fully achieved the part of the goal she committed to.

We also have lay led environmental services. We committed to 4 per year. Because of scheduling we were unable to do 4, this past year. A goal of 3 lay led environmental services is more realistic.

Our Director of Religious Education, aided by congregation members has an environmentally rich program for the young folks, including many nature outings,

led by some of our congregation naturalists. She has fully achieved the goals she and her predecessor committed to.

- *To build awareness of and rectify environmental injustices (80% awareness achieved; rectifying them takes a lifetime of commitment):*

Most projects pertain to environmental injustice in some way. Reducing excess energy use lowers environmental degradation and global warming, which disproportionately affect the impoverished, worldwide. Many energy saving changes have been made to UUFES. We have more to go, as the building is old. But even the choice of an old building saves the energy cost of new materials.

Green purchasing yields better health for farm workers, lowers impact of toxic waste on the environment. Our project on responsible investing is a way to help as well. Since many corporate entities are not good citizens, they perpetrate many environmental injustices. We need to know the practices of companies we invest in. With the economy improving, we expect people to be more able to invest. During the downturn, UUFES established an endowment, which has been responsibly invested.

Other aspects of environmental justice include our community efforts: preserving corridors for wild creatures to connect with their own kind is vital for them to thrive. Encouraging local, organic farmers helps to right terrible wrongs to ourselves and the environment, and rewards those farmers for good practices.

The grounds development is in the planning stage, but we have emplaced a committee whose sole function is to address this project. We look to establish an outdoor space which integrates well into the community and features New Hampshire natives along with other non-invasive plant species and encourages wild animals.

IV. Program Evaluation

- *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?*

The projects have served as a checklist of some of what we want to accomplish. Many of the items we would be doing anyway. Our congregation is probably atypical in that a high percentage of the members were already committed to and knowledgeable of environmental issues.

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

The most difficult aspect of the program has been getting adequate reporting of what has been done. Some former leaders of project items have moved on to perhaps more important environmental issues.

- *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?*

Some are much more environmentally aware than they might be without the program. All are somewhat more environmentally aware, especially due to the reminders that the minister and the program present. However, some of our most environmentally active members maintain that the culture is unchanged. (We were and continue to be an environmentally aware congregation.) The actual fact of certification should produce synergistically continued improvements in congregational awareness and commitment.

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

We want to strive for continued efforts on the action projects. Hosting the Tamworth Farmers' market will be continued. Some of us want to see more environmental justice activism from UUFES. We have been acting locally to the point where we may be deficient in thinking globally. We need to enlarge our thinking. Continued Education Projects will continue to be a big part of that. However, realism dictates that we must trim our aspirations to the size of our small, very busy and aging congregation, the members of which already do so much.

- *What on-going role do you expect your congregation will take in the wider community relative to environmental issues?*

We expect the congregation will continue with their ongoing environmental efforts. In addition, it would be good for UUFES to take an active role as a congregation in the "Whites to Ossipees" project.

- *How do you feel recognition as a Green Sanctuary affects your position in the community?*

We are the only UU congregation in central New Hampshire, north of the Lakes Region; we also serve part of western Maine. Most of the larger, non UU, community would not know what a Green Sanctuary is. However they would and do now appreciate what we do for the community.