

A Green Sanctuary Accreditation Progress Update as of July 2019

Congratulations to our ERUUF congregational community for the ongoing progress toward Green Sanctuary Accreditation!

As some of you may recall, securing Green Sanctuary became a strategic goal in ERUUF's 2016-2019 Strategic Plan. Since that time, we have made steady progress to include the acceptance of our Green Sanctuary Action Plan by the UUA Green Sanctuary Program in September 2018.

This past 18-19 Fellowship Year, Project Working Groups were formed and active in four areas of congregational life and for seven of the 12 projects to include (Note: The complete Green Sanctuary Action Plan with full project descriptions are available at <https://tinyurl.com/yyk63uu7>):

- **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE** (Collaborative Projects with Community Partners): Focus on Food: A collaboration with the Homeless Action Group in partnership with nonprofit organization Families Moving Forward.
- **RELIGIOUS ED-Youth-Greening Youth RE Curriculum**: The Greening of our Youth RE Curriculum Team in collaboration with RE staff and members of the RE Parents Group are making progress on this project and have plans to integrate two new lessons lifting up the 7th Principle for the 2019-2020 RE curriculum across all age groups, then to add two more new lessons for 2020-2021 to meet our GS goal of four lessons per year. The new lessons will be crafted from the [Learning and Training UUME resources](#) that cover Adult Education as well as learning for children and multi-generational groups, and will be customized for each RE age group. We are targeting the first Sunday in the upcoming fall-winter semester and the first Sunday in the winter-spring semester to introduce these two new lessons.
- **RELIGIOUS ED-Adult & Youth and Environmental & Climate Justice Month**: The first Earth & Climate Justice Month was a great success, including the congregational Common Read as noted above, team participation in the Drawdown EcoChallenge, the Awakening the Dreamer Symposium, the 3rd Annual Plant-based Eating Week, Sustainable Living Fair, and culminating in a celebratory meal. We continue into the third year of the Green Sanctuary process in 2019-2020.
- **SUSTAINABLE LIVING-Comprehensive Waste Reduction Project and ERUUF Solar 2021 Project**: In Fellowship Year 2018-2019, the Waste Reduction Team facilitated the

increase in our composting capacity from 10 gallons to 64 gallons a week. The congregation has responded by consistently filling our 64-gallon collection bin to capacity which means landfill diversion and carbon pollution reduction. In addition, the Waste Reduction Team secured a grant from the Eno River Fellowship Foundation to purchase a new Compost/Recycling/Waste Station for the Fellowship Hall which arrived in June 2019. During the 2019-2020 Fellowship Year, the working group will purchase additional recycling bins and a collection station for the CARE Bldg. Furthermore, the WR Team will engage in ongoing education and communication efforts throughout 2019-2020.

Furthermore, the Solar Project 2021 Team made progress by completing an initial information gathering phase of the project between December 12, 2018 -- June 5, 2019. Information gathered included ERUUF electricity usage data, three solar contractors' bids for the Office-Sanctuary and Care Building roofs, information on NC religious institutions with solar installations, [downloading DUKE energy rebate applications](#), and a site visit to United Church of Chapel Hill (UCCH). In addition, the SP Team completed a detailed [Solar Options Spreadsheet](#) to capture key decision-making variables. The SP Team planned to generate and submit a Recommendations Report to Daniel Trollinger, Administrative Director as outlined in the Project Description above. However, after viewing the comprehensive Solar Options spreadsheet provided by the SP Team, Daniel stated a short process summary document would suffice as the spreadsheet provided the necessary information required to make a solid decision and present a proposal to the Coordinating Team. We are hopeful that our ERUUF community will be able to actualize this goal during our 2019-2020 fellowship year.

- **WORSHIP & CELEBRATION**- Four Earth Justice and Sustainability Services a Year and an annual Congregational Common Read: Seventy-five ERUUFians engaged in the reading and discussion of the UUA Common Read, "Justice on Earth." Also, Earth Justice provided worship associates for Indigenous People's Day, Earth Justice Sunday and Earth Day Sunday, has offered five films and plant-based potlucks as well as a "Voluntary Simplicity." course (from Northwest Earth Institute).