

GREEN SANCTUARY POLICIES

1.0 PURPOSE

It is the policy of Towson Unitarian Universalist Church (TUUC), as a certified Green Sanctuary congregation, to follow our UU principles and live in a more sustainable manner, consciously lightening our footprint on the Earth and setting an example for others to follow. We will recognize the "cradle to grave" impact of the goods and services we purchase, the energy use of our building, and the practices of our congregation. We will try to buy environmentally sound goods and services, and not buy, i.e., boycott, less sound ones.

2.0 SCOPE

This policy applies to purchases of goods and services for The Towson Unitarian Universalist Church.

3.0 REVIEW OF POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The Administrative Team shall periodically review this policy and make revisions in consultation with the Green Sanctuary Committee.

4.0 DISTRIBUTION

The Church Administrator shall distribute a copy of this policy to those making purchases on behalf of TUUC.

5.0 SPECIFICS

These guidelines will be applied:

- Before buying any good or service, consider whether the purchase is indeed necessary (the greenest buying is not buying at all).
- Consider repairing an existing item before replacing it with a new one.
- We commit to choosing and supporting the most environmentally sound and sustainable practices in our congregational activities—whenever possible—including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Purchasing and using:

- Products made of and prepared with renewable resources
- Items produced through environmentally friendly processes
- Items produced by companies recognized for adherence to environmentally-sound and socially responsible business practices
- Products made of recycled materials whenever possible, specifically paper

products that are 100% tree free and/or 100% recycled

- Products that minimize packaging

Food products available from local sources.

2. Avoiding materials, which are toxic in the environment:

- Pesticides, herbicides, insect repellants, and other lawn and/or garden chemicals unless used in accordance with Integrated Pest Management principles
- Paints, stains, or building materials containing and/or produced with hazardous chemicals
- High phosphate detergents
- Cleaning products and polishes containing chlorine or ammonia
- Aerosol containers that are harmful to environment
- Toxic art/craft supplies
- Bleached or dyed paper products

3. Conserving energy:

- Using heating, air conditioning, and lighting only when necessary
- Checking to see that all appliances and lights are off when leaving the building
- Replacing standard incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs
- Replacing older, less-efficient appliances with more energy-efficient models

4. Conserving water:

- Reporting dripping faucets, running toilets, etcetera to the office
- Replacing old toilet fixtures with new low flow models
- Harvesting rainwater for outdoor watering needs

5. Recycling:

- Paper
- Aluminum
- Glass
- Copier and printer cartridges
- Computer equipment
- Other electronic devices
- Composting organic waste from lawn, garden, and kitchen and compostable paper products (must be grease-and-animal-product free)

6. Managing the TUUC facility and grounds with environmental and social responsibility in mind:

- Planting native vegetation
- Using Integrated Pest Management approaches
- Using green building design and materials for any construction and/or remodeling

7. Being environmentally conscious when planning and serving food, refreshments, or snacks at meetings and events:

- Choosing a plant-centered menu with sustainably-grown, local and/or organic foods
- Limiting inclusion of processed and over-packaged foods
- Reducing saturated fats
- Handling left-over foods responsibly, for example, planning in advance to either freeze leftovers for another event or donate leftovers to a local food pantry
- Using ceramic coffee cups instead of throw-away paper or plastic unless the size or location of the event precludes this

8. Investing in environmentally and socially responsible funds