

# **Green Sanctuary Guidelines: Adopted by the Council (April, 2010)**

## **Preface**

Members of the Green Sanctuary Committee (Cathy Goldwater, chair, Paul Liscord, Debess Rogers, Sandy Frades, Erna Johnson) have noted that consumable materials used at UUCM are not always the type of products that are least harmful to the environment. For example, people sometimes donate dish liquid and dishwasher soaps that are petroleum-based. There is currently no policy regarding the types of soap that should be purchased and/or donated.

Other products, such as copier paper, are currently ordered in bulk by the Church Administrator, who considers the impact on the planet by ordering paper with recycled content. However, without guidelines endorsed by the congregation, the quality of such items is dependent on who is purchasing them. If the Administrator were to leave UUCM, the next person might not consider the same values when purchasing office supplies.

For this reason, the Green Sanctuary Committee proposes the following guidelines for the purchase of some consumables at church, as we move forward toward becoming certified as a Green Sanctuary. Guidelines for those donating products, and recommendations for the conservation of paper, are also included.

## **Guidelines:**

Purchases of certain products (specified below) with UUCM funds for use at UUCM will meet the following criteria whenever possible:

### **I. Consumable products guidelines**

Dish liquids :products that are plant-based rather than petroleum based.

Example Brands: Seventh Generation, Ecover, Planet

Dishwasher soap: powder or liquid that is plant-based rather than petroleum based.

Example Brands: Ecover, Seventh Generation, Earth Friendly, Trader Joe's.

Hand-washing soap: liquid soap without anti-bacterial additives

Toilet paper: made from 100% recycled paper, containing at least partly post-consumer paper

Paper towels: made from 100% recycled paper, containing at least partly post-consumer paper

Copier paper: with the highest proportion of recycled paper content that still allows for acceptable quality (quality to be judged by the minister and/or others designated by the minister)

Envelopes: with the highest proportion of recycled paper content that still allows for acceptable quality (quality to be judged by the minister and/or others designated by the minister)

**II. Donation of supplies:** Members wishing to donate dish soap or paper products are asked to purchase products in accord with the guidelines in the first section

**III. Paper conservation guidelines:** All UUCM members using the copier are asked to consider carefully their use of copier paper, using the smallest number of pages needed and making double-sided copies whenever possible. Members are asked to use both sides of easel paper whenever possible.