

RRUU Green Guidelines and Guidelines Implementation Plan

Adopted by the Congregation November 8, 2009

Mission Statement: In order to live out our Principles more fully, Red River Unitarian Universalist Church commits itself to adopting church policies, guidelines and practices that are environmentally responsible and socially just. In order to accomplish this mission, we commit to the following guidelines and plans:

RRUU GREEN GUIDELINES

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

<p style="text-align: center;">Social and Environmental Action</p> <p>We recognize that environmental sustainability and social justice are intertwined issues. We will promote the sustainable use of the earth's resources, so that environmental justice for all people on the planet can be someday achieved.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use native, well adapted, non-invasive plants in landscaping projects for Habitat for Humanity or other organizations. 2. Teach composting, energy conservation, and yard-wise practices as part of our social action program. 3. Participate in community events and projects that support environmental causes. 4. Educate our own congregation and the community concerning the link between that environmentalism and social justice.
<p style="text-align: center;">Religious Education and Worship</p> <p>We recognize that environment is a religious issue for our denomination and our congregation.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Include lessons on the 7th Principal in curriculum for religious education for children, youth and adults. 2. Make program and educational materials available for religious education programs and individuals through the lending library and RRUU website. 3. Include environment stewardship among topics addressed in worship services.
<p style="text-align: center;">Purchasing and Investment Guidelines</p> <p>We recognize that our purchases and investments directly reflect our values. In order to live out our principals more fully, we commit to:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct our investments toward socially just and environmentally responsible funds and companies. 2. Purchase from and work with companies with good environmental and fair trade policies. 3. Work to reduce packaging in purchases made for RRUU.
<p style="text-align: center;">Program Materials</p> <p>We will sustain all programs by reducing, recycling and reusing materials.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purchase recycled paper products for program materials for worship service, religious education programs, board meetings and committee meetings. 2. Use both sides of paper for all programs and board and committee meetings. 3. Make recycling easy and accessible in multiple locations in the building 4. Explore ways to reduce paper use (website, CDs of educational material, newsletter by email, etc. 5. Explore ways to reduce gasoline consumption of members when scheduling meetings.

<p style="text-align: center;">Building and Grounds</p> <p>We will treat our building and grounds gently and with respect by using resources in a sustainable manner.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Emphasize on native, adapted, and non-invasive plants, reduce lawn areas by increasing mulch & planting areas, and work toward reduction of water consumption 2. Avoid chemical use in lawn if at all possible. 3. Compost yard waste and use finished compost for lawn fertilizer 4. Work with the landlord to reduce energy consumption by using compact fluorescent fixtures, LED exit lights, programmable thermostats, insulation, and make low cost weatherization improvements to reduce energy bills in rental situations. 5. Work to reduce energy consumption by observing practices of Interfaith Power & Light Breath of Life Campaign, UUA Green Sanctuary Program, LEEDS, permaculture, and other environmental practices and groups in situations where we own property. 6. As a congregation, we will choose providers of green energy.
<p style="text-align: center;">Hospitality</p> <p>RRUU commits to approach hospitality in a manner that has the least impact on the earth.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use reusable dishes and linens. Avoid use of products that are not biodegradable. Use cloth towels and cloth napkins, rags for clean up in kitchen, etc. 2. Compost food waste. 3. Use environmentally friendly cleaning agents. 4. Purchase recycled paper products whenever possible. 5. Follow Green purchasing Guidelines wherever possible.