

Project: "Greening" church activities

Category: Sustainable Living

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Recycling at University Unitarian goes beyond the coffee hour. The Green Sanctuary Recycling Subcommittee meets with planners for special events at UUC to talk with them about reducing non-recyclables and increasing the use of ceramics, glass, silverware and brown paper table coverings and napkins at all special events. Most plastic utensils, plastic tumblers, and plastic plates have been removed. The GSRS assists all special events planners and implementers in making sure that all waste is disposed of properly. The GSRS has staffed plate scraping, dishwashing and appropriate disposal at three major events. Notably, Green Sanctuary persuaded the church auction committee to have dinner for 300 with cloth tablecloths and non-disposable dishes. We now have sufficient resources of reusable items in our kitchens from a covenant group project that restocked the church kitchen with table service for 40. The Green Sanctuary Recycling Subcommittee did an assessment of our waste process and found that our permanent tenants were doing well with recycling. We made recommendations to Tom Taggart, our business manager, to explore the use of bio bags for waste, to reduce use of toxic chemicals for cleaning, and to review how well garbage and recyclables are being handled as they go into the outside containers for collection by the city. Green Sanctuary has also written "Greening your Committee" flyer to encourage green practices by church committees.

