

Project: Pesticide Free Zone Campaign with Washington Toxics Coalition

Category: Environmental Justice

Coordinator: Elaine Willey

UUC partnered with the Washington Toxics Coalition, a leading NW environmental non-profit, in 2007 and 2008 to increase awareness and educate people about the dangers of using pesticides. Over 100 members of UUC took the Pesticide Free Zone pledge which asks us to refrain from using pesticides and to seek out safer alternatives. Part of the pledge is to display a Pesticide Free Zone metal ladybug sign in their yard. We covered this issue in our church newsletter, our order of service and in a lay testament. To complement this program, in 2007, sustainable gardening classes were offered to UUC members in partnership with Seattle Tilth, a knowledgeable gardening non-profit focusing on safe practices. In 2008, a church member with sustainable gardening expertise, stepped forward to offer classes. We hope to offer this program again in 2009. UUC strives to be a Pesticide Free Zone, emphasizing native, drought-tolerant planting. Pesticide Free Zone project was initiated by Beyond Pesticides in Washington, DC and UUC efforts are part of a larger, U.S. program.

