

**Church of the Redeemer  
Greening Our Community - Action Plan Summary  
2012-2013**

The action plan is intended to move our church community toward greater sustainability both in fact and in spiritual consciousness. The plan is now and will remain a work in progress until we are actually certified, and hopefully well beyond that.

**Green Team Mission**

Because we are called to “seek God’s justice and wholeness for this earth and all its inhabitants,” the Redeemer Green Team is committed to infusing care for the environment into our congregation’s worship, religious education, justice initiatives, spiritual practice, and stewardship.

**Four Integrated Parts - Stewardship, Justice, Spirit, Communications**

**Stewardship**

*Seven areas of concentration:*

1. Energy - conduct energy audit, monitor climate and lighting through more efficient, programmable thermostats and CFL and/or LED lighting wherever possible, educate and encourage home energy audits for members.
2. Food - serving fair trade, organic, shade-grown coffee and tea, providing vegetarian and vegan options at events where meals are served, and distribute vegetarian recipes and information about local farming.
3. Water - install regulators on all faucets and toilets, do not serve individual water bottles at events, post signs in restroom and kitchen areas encouraging water conservation.
4. Waste - conduct waste audit (adults and youth working together, preferably), using GreenFaith’s worksheet and guidelines. Refine our paper use and recycling practices.
5. Toxins - use green cleaning chemicals and educate about them.
6. Grounds Maintenance - use native plants in landscaping, minimize chemical and plant fertilizers.
7. Transportation - bike rack, encourage car pooling where possible.

**Justice**

*EJ activity and relationships:*

1. Whippany River Watershed/Morristown impact - meeting with Rev. Sidney Williams (Bethel AME Church) and David Mazik (Presbyterian Church - Morristown) to discuss partnering on these issues.

2. Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative - petition and letter-writing advocacy campaign
3. Engage the Good Shepherd Home/Cameroon committee regarding possible EJ issues.
4. TBD internationally-focused campaign around either water use or climate change.

#### *Education:*

1. Adult forums - to share what we learn in our EJ activity participation.
2. Erin Brockovich forum - Chuck Dickerson
3. EJ tours - GreenFaith

### **Spirit**

Worship services and educational sessions (clergy, adult, youth, children) on environmental themes. The Green Team also met at Genesis Farm and toured the facility as part of its own education into faith-based initiatives for the environment.

Spirit activities will address environmental topics in general but also and especially share with the congregation the spirit and substance of the church's own green activities.

### **Communications**

The overall purpose of the communications aspect of our work is to keep both the congregation and the broader community aware of our work, and invite participation in it. The intention is to green ourselves and also to be an environmental beacon and leader in our community.

#### *Elements:*

1. Public announcement of our participation in the program and formal announcement to the church and to our bishop - December, 2011.
2. A series of theological reflections by the Rector and/or others.
3. Monthly eco-tip for the home - included in the E-pistle.
4. Quarterly articles in Crossroads
5. Quarterly press releases
6. Website presence
7. Publicizing the GreenFaith/AP Solar project
8. Sharing our progress with SustainableMorristown - as a result Redeemer was recently nominated for a sustainability award as the first and only church in Morristown having taken on the challenge of GreenFaith certification. (I suspect we might well win that award the year we are actually certified.)

***Ultimately, this is all about "Who We Are" as the Church of the Redeemer. When people ask us about Redeemer, or talk about Redeemer with others, will the fact we are a Green Church be a part of those conversations?***