

Green Practices Survey Report

SUMMARY:

Thirty-three people started the survey, thirty completed it.

Of the 18 suggested practices, 16 received over 50% agreement and 11 received over 75% agreement.

Two practices with the highest percentage agreement: (only two over 90%)

Provide tap or filtered water instead of bottled water, 97.0%

Landscape with native & drought-tolerant plants, 93.8%

Two practices with lowest percentage agreement: (only two under 50%)

Reduce use of printed programs and Orders of Service, 30.3%

Install solar power, 39.4%

There were 5 to 10 write-in suggestions on each question.

Respondents are generally supportive of green measures. There is interest in solar and in green maintenance/building/remodeling practices but concern about costs. There is a high level of support (84.8%) for an energy audit of the building which could help us prioritize our efforts in this area.

DETAIL:

Question 1: ENERGY

Use energy efficient appliances and equipment	75.8%
Don't leave appliances/equipment in standby mode	63.6%
Have an energy audit of the building done	84.8%
Install solar power	39.4%
Replace all light bulbs with CFLs	78.8%
Improve insulation	69.7%

What else could we do? (write-ins)

1. Lower heat in wintertime and raise the air-conditioning control in summer.
2. Replace some lights. Some incandescent lights may be needed.
3. Go green in any new building projects
4. Replace cupola windows with double pane glass to reduce heat loss and outside sound.
5. Carpool when possible.
6. ...do we really need heat and cool for the mild weather? Or can we at least adjust the temp. accordingly.
7. The one's checked are feasible in the short term at little cost. When we can afford it without sacrificing critical UUFLG programs, we should replace the heater/AC machines with new efficient

ones, install solar power and improve insulation.

8. Check cost of installing solar power to see if it is possible or add to future budget to prepare for cost.

9. When we do even the smallest remodeling go green!

10. Keep heat at 68 degrees or less and AC at 78 degrees or more.

From paper forms:

Solar panels for fellowship roof (sell any excess power to PG&E)

Find out if the fellowship can purchase green power

Question 2: BUILDING & GROUNDS

Use green, non-toxic cleaning products 84.8%

Use green materials in building maintenance 66.7%

Use green materials and practices in any remodel or addition 81.8%

Landscape with native and drought-tolerant plants 93.9%

Compost garden and kitchen waste 54.5%

Avoid pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilizers 87.9%

What else could we do? (write-ins)

1. I think the deck needs to be stained or treated as it is not going to last very long if we don't. It is looking very dried out and I don't think we want to spend money to replace it any time soon.

2. Try to encourage local food purchases when possible, and use local companies and labor when possible.

3. Redesign the drip system to water the plants more efficiently.

4. also see <http://www.presentationcenter.org/green.htm>

5. Wash all dishes by hand as dishwasher uses more water and energy than washing by hand.

6. Ensure watering is done responsibly (I think it probably is already)

7. Use mulch to reduce water needs in landscape

From paper forms:

Let's get a compost bin, compost our coffee grounds, green waste, etc & use on landscaping

Collect rainwater for garden use, Compost for garden

Question 3: WORSHIP, RE AND EVENTS

Reduce use of printed programs & Orders of Service 30.3%

Use 100% post-consumer recycled paper for all printed material 81.8%

Place bin outside sanctuary for recycling programs & Orders of Service 87.9%

Provide tap or filtered water instead of bottle water 97.0%

Reduce use of disposables (plates, utensils, etc) when serving food 78.8%

Use compostable items & compost them if disposables unavoidable 60.6%

What else could we do? (write-ins)

1. We could limit printed programs and orders of service to one per couple.
2. Recycling disposable food serving items is very good.
3. proudly proclaim green measures, e.g. in signs, by adding statement “printed on 100% recycled paper” to bottom of documents, etc.
4. Avoid styrofoam at all costs. Educate people (put up a list or something) about what can go in the recycling bins and what can't.
5. Left over OOS and programs are currently recycled, if they are left in the sanctuary or around the church. I'm curious about not using an OOS - we usually have a “standard” format (known to regulars, at least) - I'd like to talk about this one more - Victoria

From paper forms:

Recycle bin for Sunday programs

Use projector for Sunday programs (would also use larger text size for anyone having trouble w/eyesight)

Use 100% post consumer paper for all publications

Teach conservation to kids, e.g. use less new material, re-use, be creative with materials

Promote healthy eating, less meat, more vegs at our gatherings

Questions 4: OTHER AREAS

What other things, big or small, can UUFLG, as a congregation, do to reduce our impact on the environment and our green house gas emissions? (write-ins)

1. Conduct an internal survey of where people live and their willingness to carpool to services.
2. Teach children to conserve material, reduce, reuse and recycle. We cut up and waste plenty perfectly good paper, decorations, ribbons, yarns, etc.... A fellowship compose-pile would be fun for the kids.
3. Continue with your challenges --- I think they are a great way to educate us about practical ideas that we can really do in our every day lives. Thanks!
4. encourage carpooling to events outside of the fellowship. put together a list of people willing to carpool to and from services
5. Green purchasing practices-reduce packaging (e.g. don't buy non-dairy creamer in individual serving packets). Do better job of recycling! Garbage and recyclable materials get mixed together every Sunday in west room or on deck. Promote use of local, organic and vegetarian foods at our events.
6. Teach our children to conserve, reduce, not waste material. We entertain them with lots of perfectly good, new material, just to have them throw away after the Sunday school.
7. Those that are able carpool, walk or bike.
8. Encourage carpooling.
9. Make sure heating and A/C systems are in top working order (e.g. good filters, good (fairly uniform)

distribution of heat and A/C. Make sure windows and doors are sealed as well as possible. Consider installing motion-sensors on some light switches (those that are left on when not in use most often).

From paper forms:

Collect used CFL bulbs and batteries for recycling

Use rechargeable batteries

Question 5: ON THE HOME FRONT

Do you have additional ideas for 'at home' actions we should promote? (write-ins)

1. Never use bottled water at home, but have some stored for an emergency.
2. When we landscape we should use plants and trees that can survive our climate, too many of us use precious water to keep our plants alive. Of course the more green, the less Global warming so it works two ways. We need to fight vigorously to preserve trees here and rain forests elsewhere and hope the battle is not already lost.
3. I am ready to learn how to compost at home. A course would be good.
4. Shop for locally produced food Use reusable shopping bags or ask for paper, not plastic Keep car tuned up, tires inflated and practice focus on using the brakes less (more gliding/less zooming). Close heating vents and close door to unused rooms such as spare bedroom. Run washing machine, dryer and dishwasher during off peak hours (at night).
5. Eliminate the usage of pesticide, fertilizer, chemical; promote vegetarianism (or the less the betterism), everyone should have a compost pile for kitchen scraps. Stop buying more stuff to throw away. Buy bulk instead of over packaged items.
6. help give ideas of cost and or reference to solar powered installers in our area
7. Not at the moment.
8. Compost at home, no chemical use in the garden, replace the right light bulbs, reduce, quit shopping.
9. Recycle batteries. Become educated on what is recyclable and what isn't. Host a class on composting.

Other respondent comments:

Check out the Presentation Center Green Welcome Center at

<http://www.presentationcenter.org/green.htm> BE SURE TO LOOK at this URL! It not only has a vegetation roof it has all manor of recycled naturally renewable materials. It is even built from straw bales. it is worth a visit!!!! It is gorgeous as well as efficient. Imagine floors made from recycled milk cartons that look like asphalt tile.

Caveats:

All suggestions need to be fact-checked. For example, the suggestion to hand wash rather than machine wash dishes should be weighed against recent studies showing that washing dishes by hand can use up

to 50 percent more water than a water-efficient, Energy Star rated dishwasher (which ours is) and uses more energy than a dishwasher run only with full loads, if dishes are not rinsed before loading, and if you use the air dry setting (which we do).

Report prepared by Connie Springer

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