

# CARE OF THE EARTH

---



# Vision for Care of the Earth



The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble caretakers of this earth and to protect and restore it for its own sake and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family.

At RUC, we respect the earth God created, recognize our responsibility as God's stewards to care conscientiously for all creation, and strive to integrate environmental stewardship throughout all aspects of our life together.

# The four RUC foundational mission priorities

- Care of the RUC family
- Care of our neighbors
- Commitment to social justice
- Care of the earth





# Be the Green Church In Practice

## Make our building & grounds a sustainability statement

### Build on

Build on work to be more energy efficient and environmentally friendly within the building

- LED lighting
- composting kitchen waste
- avoiding single use plates

### Continue

Continue efforts on the outside

- native plantings
- “lasagna” beds inspired by Pastor Scott’s sabbatical
- new Eco-Star composite roof shingles
- soon, new energy efficient windows



## Be the Green Church In Practice

### Expand our efforts on the grounds

- Add no-mow plantings on the hillside on Farragut Avenue
  - Create a dry stream bed for water runoff
  - Provide rain barrels or cisterns for roof storm runoff
  - Use natural elements in the proposed playground (interactive art and play center)
- 
- Investigate the feasibility of solar panels
  - Add more native plantings
  - Increase sustainable and organic practices of our produce garden and grounds



## Be the Green Church Through Outreach

Support environmental social justice and mission

Community benefit from our garden

- Continue donations to Manna Food Rescue of cash from sales of excess produce and of excess produce
- Explore other ways the garden and land could benefit our neighbors

# Be a Green Church Through Outreach

## Support environmental social justice and mission

- Partner with our denominations and other groups
  - Maintaining certifications as a Green Justice Congregation from the UCC and Earth Care Congregation from the PC(USA)
  - With Interfaith Power & Light, building a religious response to climate change
  - Sponsoring congregation to Presbytery Earthen Hands Ministry mission church
  - Joining the Poor People's Campaign to address environmental impact on the marginalized





## Create Earth Care Working Group

Integrate the Care of the Earth perspective throughout our congregation, and into the community, through awareness, education, practice and outreach. Ensure structures are in place to offer ongoing support and oversight.

- Provide consultancy to other RUC committees as asked, in the principles of environmental stewardship
- Participate in the earth-care-related missions and advocacy of the UCC and Presbytery (USA)
- Improve the energy efficiency of the RUC building
- Maximize recycling and use of renewable resources
- Minimize and maintain the use of non-biodegradable disposable products
- Leverage our initiatives as an educational opportunity for our neighbors and us



## Care of the Earth connects to other themes

- Care of our neighbors
- Commitment to social justice
- Strategic use of the RUC building and property as a productive resource to support our social missions and facilitate positive relationships with the surrounding neighborhood
- Provide many opportunities for self-care



**TIME FOR QUESTIONS, ANSWERS, COMMENTS,  
DISCUSSION**

---