



## Green Sanctuary

Annual Report June 4, 2017

Green Sanctuary Team Members who have attended meetings in FY16-17 include – Julie Williams, Harvey Johnson, Dave Sarra, Jim McConnell, Hilary Johnson, Linda Lobik, Rob Hammond, Tom Hackley and Gloria Weberg. Thank you. All BUUF members or friends are encouraged to attend meetings, work sessions and otherwise provide ideas for becoming and sustaining a Green Sanctuary.

Meetings were held before Sunday Services on August 16, 2016, March 19 and April 16, 2017. The next GS meeting will be June 19 at 9 am. Organic refreshments will be provided. Membership is informal and fees are low. Quarterly meetings are attempted.

History - At the 2015 annual meeting it was decided to begin the quest to become a Green Sanctuary. The kickoff project was a 6 KV Solar Electric system to generate the majority of our electricity. The Solar Electric system has been making about 60% of our annual electricity since installation by converting solar energy (photons) into electrical energy (electrons). Therefore, we are using an infinite source of energy instead of non-renewable energy sources such as natural gas, coal, and uranium). The four elements of being a Green Sanctuary involve Sustainable Living, Environmental Justice, Worship & Celebration, and Religious Education. Assessments of the four elements were made by team members, action plans were developed and some were even implemented. An application for Green Sanctuary candidacy was written and submitted May 31, 2017 to the Unitarian Universalist Association for review and comments. The application is a separate document. Please read the application.

### Sustainable Living

The Solar Electric system has generated 11.7 million watt hours (MWh) since the October 2015 installation. This solar system has resulted in BUUF NOT generating about 9 tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) greenhouse gas. Due to the AEP net metering billing, we are looking forward to \$0 bills for the next 6 months with credits towards future bills.

An Electric lawn mower has been used to cut the BUUF grass last summer and continuing into this growing season. The 56 volt battery is charged with the electricity that we are generating. The idea is to reduce the Carbon foot print of BUUF. Volunteers are needed to operate the mower. HJ will continue to provide 1 hour/wk. We need 1 other hour volunteered per week to mow. It can be whenever is convenient with the volunteer. Building keys can be issued.

We have reduce the area of lawn by converting 3'x 10" into a vegetable garden. A 3 sister's garden has been planted at the west end of the parking lot. Come see the beans and corn and squash grow.

Plans for window replacement, insulation, light bulb replacement with LED are being discussed. Suggestions are requested for other sustainable living, gardening and lawn maintenance ideas. Please bring them to a meeting or talk to a Green Sanctuary member (is that you?).

### Environmental Justice

An Environmental Justice Film Series has been presented each 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday starting in fall 2016. After the film a discussion followed on the Stewardship actions that we can take to reduce or impact on our shared home, PLANET EARTH.

The BUUF Green Sanctuary Team has agreed to again partner with the Fresh Start Children's Garden led by Emma Kinnard. The garden is located at the corner of May and Pearl Streets in Benton Harbor (1104 May St.). Several Thursday 5 pm work sessions have taken place. Future work sessions will happen on Saturday morning. Volunteers are welcome to go to the garden on Saturday mornings from 10am to 12pm. and help with fence building, planting, weeding and child mentoring on gardening and food. Further notifications will be made on work times via the weekly Announcements, website and Sunday Services.

### Worship Services

Approximately 25% or our Sunday Services were focused on Green Sanctuary topics of Sustainability, Earth based wisdom or Environmental Justice. This will continue in the coming year.

### Religious Education

Green Sanctuary topics of Sustainability, Earth based wisdom or Environmental Justice were incorporated into the children RE programs. This will continue in the coming year.

### Application for Candidate status

A Green Sanctuary application was completed and submitted May 31, 2017. We performing the required Assessments of the 4 focus areas and proposed action plans.

- Sustainable Living
- Worship and Celebration
- Religious Education
- Environmental Justice

The GS application will be reviewed at UUA by Green Sanctuary Manager Rev. Karen Brammer at [kbrammer@uua.org](mailto:kbrammer@uua.org). There will be required modifications to the application before being accepted.

For more information talk to Harvey Johnson 269-470-1470 [johnsonh4@michigan.gov](mailto:johnsonh4@michigan.gov)