



Annual Report June 2, 2019

Green Sanctuary Team Members who have attended meetings/work session in FY18/19 include – Rachel Reed, Jaryn Ruggless, Sandy Walker, Diane Gibbons, Katharine Lion, Jim McConnell, Julie Williams, Harvey Johnson, Dave Sarra, Linda Lobik, 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. Quarterly meetings were considered but only one meeting was completed 3/17/19. We will try for quarterly meetings/work projects.

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 80% 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 have been implemented.

Application - An application for Green Sanctuary candidacy was written by the committee and submitted May 31, 2017 to the Unitarian Universalist Association for review and comments. The application is on the BUUF website (berrienuu.org).

The GS application was reviewed at UUA by Green Sanctuary Manager Rev. Karen Brammer at kbrammer@uua.org. On July 31, 2017 the BUUF Green Sanctuary Application was affirmed and BUUF is now a Green Sanctuary Candidate. This means that we are on the right track to becoming a UUA designated Green Sanctuary.

Sustainable Living

The Solar Electric system has generated 27 million watt hours (MWh) of electricity since the October 2015 installation. This solar system has resulted in BUUF NOT generating about 20 tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) greenhouse gas. AEP changed the net metering billing May 2018, and BUUF bills more than doubled. The BUUF billing schedule has since changed to Tariff Code 229 (on-peak/off-peak) which should reduce our electric bills.

An Electric lawn mower has been used to cut the BUUF grass for three summers 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. Brian K. has provided most of the mowing in the past year. HJ will continue to try and provide 1 hour/wk. We need 1 other hour volunteer per week to mow. It can be whenever is convenient with the volunteer. Building key code can be shared.

We have reduced the area of lawn by converting an additional 4'x 8" into a vegetable/herb garden which has been planted at the west end of the parking lot. Come see the beans and corn and squash grow.

Efficient windows will be installed on June 8, 2019 (9am – 5pm). Please Come help. 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 3rd Thursday starting in fall 2016. After the film a discussion follows on the Stewardship actions that we can take to reduce our 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.). No work sessions have taken place in 2019. Future work sessions will happen on Saturday mornings. Volunteers are welcome to help at the garden on Saturday mornings from 10 am to 12 pm. Help is 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 20% of our Sunday Services were focused on Green Sanctuary topics of Sustainability, Earth based wisdom or Environmental Justice. This will continue.

Religious Education

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

For more information talk to Harvey Johnson 269-470-1470 johnsonh4@michigan.gov