

Unitarian Church of Lincoln Environmental Policy Statement

We at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln strive to practice sustainability and improve our environmental footprint both as a congregation and as individuals. Called by our Unitarian Universalist 7th principle “respect for the interdependent web of life of all existence of which we are a part” as well as our core values of justice, wonder and gratitude, we agree to engage our community in environmental education and action.

We commit to the following:

- 1) Promote environmental sustainability within our congregation and in the greater community.
- 2) Actively support a rapid reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and transition to renewable energy.
- 3) Conserve energy and natural resources.
- 4) Use nontoxic and environmentally sound products and practices.
- 5) Reduce, reuse and recycle.

Our goals include:

Promote Environmental Connection, Sustainability and Responsibility

- Incorporate a reverence for life and a responsibility to care for the earth into worship services and religious education for all ages.
- Be actively involved in community sustainability efforts.
- Encourage conscious food and product choices, including the use of local sources.
- Utilize drought resistant, low maintenance plantings.

Become a Nontoxic Community

- Choose glass, metal and paper products over plastic when a comparable choice is available.
- When plastic is a necessity, choose biodegradable, recycled and/or recyclable plastic if affordable.
- Discourage the use of Styrofoam.
- Recycle electronics, batteries, fluorescent lights, monitors, etc.; try to use comparable materials that do not generate toxic waste.
- Use nontoxic cleaning products, dish detergents, hand soaps and craft supplies.
- Use no or low VOC paint, nontoxic carpeting and other nontoxic products.
- Minimize the use of herbicides and pesticides on our grounds.

- Use lead free, fragrance-free or natural fragrance candles, soaps, air fresheners and personal products.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- Recycle paper, cardboard, glass, plastic and cans, using the recycling bins in each room.
- Encourage the use of washable items such as kitchen towels and dishes.
- Continue to assess the feasibility of composting food waste and bathroom towels.
- Purchase recycled paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, office paper)
- Use sustainable or reused materials whenever possible.

We will promote these policies within our church and through our work in the community.