



# Consider This...

Garden City Community Church Green Team  
What We Can Do For A Better Environment

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## Green 2009!

### The Green Team Mission

Psalm 24:1 reminds us that "The earth is God's and the fullness thereof, the world and those that dwell therein." Numerous other passages throughout the Bible lead us to see that we are not the owners of God's creation but charged to protect and care for it as stewards of the earth.

Grounded in this faith, it is the purpose of the Garden City Community Church Green Team to educate ourselves, the members of our congregation and the members of our community about making choices to use products that are earth-friendly, recyclable and energy-efficient. We are committed to devising, planning and implementing strategies and programs designed to reduce waste, improve energy and water efficiency, and recycle materials.

### Green Tip

When you use the fireplace, reduce heat loss by opening dampers in the bottom of the firebox (if provided) or open the nearest window slightly-approximately 1 inch-and close doors leading into the room. Lower the thermostat setting to between 50 F and 55 F.

Find these and other green tips at The US Department of Energy:  
<http://www.energysavers.gov/tips.html>



Welcome to the latest edition of "Consider This." If you remember, this communication format was originally designed during our congregation-wide exploration of the "Open and Affirming" issue, but it was always intended to serve the wider purpose. That is, to be a vehicle through which we explore any larger issue or initiative within our congregation. Currently, the focus is on the Council of Trustees endorsed initiative to become a "greener" congregation in response to God's call to be stewards of creation. I hope you will find the contents both interesting and informative. While there is an appointed "Green Team Task Force," we want all of you to consider signing on to become a part of the Community Church Green Team by committing yourselves to follow more "green" practices in your home, your work and your community.

Faithfully yours, Jim

### BINS TO WATCH FOR!

Be on the lookout for recycling stations. We now have bins for cell phones and household batteries, and sneakers. Cell phones don't need to work to be donated. Household batteries include AA, AAA, 9V, 6V, C, and D. Sneakers can be adult and children's athletic shoes only. No metal, cleats, dress shoes, or damp shoes.

We'd like to be your environmental resource center. We have put together a book with energy tips, articles about the environment, lists of web resources, recycling programs, and much more. The book, for now, will be in the library. If you have tips, resources or information to share please contact our committee so we can add them to the book!

### GREEN FARMING

Farmers use environmental strategies to maximize crop yield per square acre. For instance Shade cropping is a framing technique used in forests, using large trees as an umbrella to provide shade for agricultural crops. Shade cropping provides economical incentive not to clearcut shade forests, and also preserves wildlife habitats. Most commonly coffee is grown this way.

Coffee labeled Fair Trade Coffee promotes environmental sustainability and product pricing that meets or exceeds subsistence requirements. So buying the fair trade coffee label is an easy way to be green! The UCC even has It's own brand called Equal Exchange! To purchase Equal Exchange coffee go to <http://interfaith.equalexchange.com>

### DID YOU KNOW?

New York Governor David Paterson recently signed legislation making it mandatory for all large grocers and retailers that offer plastic bags to their customers to provide collection bins for a wide variety of plastic bags and wraps, thereby dramatically increasing recycling opportunities across the state?

This legislation in New York and similar legislation in California is expected to increase significantly the amount of plastic bags and wraps that are diverted from landfills and turned into new consumer products, such as durable decking, fencing, railings, shopping carts and new bags.

To read the entire legislation, check out [www.assembly.state.ny.us](http://www.assembly.state.ny.us). It is bill Number A11725. It will go into effect on January 1, 2009.

### Green Team Committee

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