

Social Justice Involved in Many Areas

April 26 is the Annual Crop Walk. Registration packets are available in the Parish Hall or sign up online at crop-walkonline.org. Sign up and get sponsorships!! Lets win the sneakers again!! See Joy Benson for more info.

Race - the power of an illusion is a three part adult enrichment program to be conducted by Amy and an associate - Lisa Colburn. Program is free and open to the public. Register at office@channingchurch.org.

Craig Gaspard is going to check with an expert at URI about **genetic engineering of food**. Initial reaction is that this could be a really hot topic. You can sign up for non-polluting **green energy sources**. An article detailing this program is in this issue.

Contact your statehouse rep and senator an urge them to support the **RI Global Warming Solutions Act** (house bill 7884 and senate bill 2629).

The RE department is giving us the opportunity to help Sunday School teachers teach our children and youth about how becoming a green congregation will help our environment. Call **DRE Halcyon (846-0643)**. George Warch and Betsy Dees reported on **energy costs/ solutions for low income families** conference they attended at the Florence Gray House in Newport last month.

Tom Beall is going to learn the requirements necessary for Channing to become a **UU Peacemaker congregation**.

There are three proposed bills relating to **marriage equality** that need our support.

Don Mallinson
Social Justice Chair

Eco Bits and Tips

PRACTICE THE THREE R'S: REDUCE - REUSE - RECYCLE OR PRECYCLE - go to: catalogchoice.org

Catalog Choice is a free service that allows you to decide what gets in your mailbox. Use it to reduce your mailbox clutter, while helping save natural resources. The mission of Catalog Choice is to reduce the number of repeat and unsolicited catalog mailings, and to promote the adoption of sustainable industry best practices. [They] aim to accomplish this by freely providing the Catalog Choice services to both consumers and businesses. Consumers can indicate which catalogs they no longer wish to receive, and businesses can receive a list of consumers no longer wanting to receive their catalogs. Catalog Choice is a sponsored project of the Ecology Center. It is endorsed by the *National Wildlife Federation* and the *Natural Resources Defense Council*, and funded by the Overbrook Foundation, the Merck Family Fund, and the Keneda Fund. (FYI: I went on line at catalogchoice.org and including registration it took about 15 minutes to click on all the catalogs that I do not want!) - Susan Adie

Help Your Environment and Help Your Church With Green Energy



Right now your electricity comes from burning fossil fuels. This is definitely not good for our environment. All scientific evidence attributes the burning of coal, oil and natural gas as the leading cause of undesirable global warming.

Here is way for you to have your electric usage be attributed to renewable sources including solar, wind and small hydroelectric plants. Through a new arrangement between Channing and Peoples Power and Light (PP&L) you can sign up for their GreenStart program and support local renewable energy resources. Essentially you will be telling National Grid to purchase energy in the amount of your electric usage from renewable energy sources rather than fossil fuel burning generating plants.

Persons like you and me who sign up for the GreenStart program will not only be users of green energy, but Channing will receive \$10 in each of the next three years (\$30 total). For example, fifty households referencing Channing when they sign up will result in payments totaling \$1,500 to our church. Good for your environment and good for your church.

All this goodness will cost pennies a day for a typical size house hold. Specifically, the cost is 2.4 cents per kilo watt hour. I live in a 2,000 sq ft house. My average monthly electric usage for the first ten months of 2007 was 340 kWh. At 2.4 cents per kWh my electric bill increased \$8.16 on average for each month, which shows up as a separate line in my National Grid bill. By the way, because PP&L is a charitable company, my \$8.16 is tax deductible. In fact at year end PP&L will send me a summary of my green energy payments for tax purposes.

Signing up is easy, even if you already are a part of PP&L or some other green energy program you simply fill out a post card (you will receive one in the mail in a month or so). Where indicated on the postcard you will provide your National Grid account number (its on every bill they send), Channing as your source of information and your name and address.

You can't wait!! You can sign up on line at GreenStart.net. Channing is on a pull down menu when you fill in info source.

Questions about helping your environment while helping your church? Call any member of the Social Justice Committee.

—Don Mallinson
Social Justice Chair