



ALL SOULS INTERFAITH GATHERING, INC.

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## *Earth-Friendly Design Features*

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Here are some exciting ways our new construction and renovation is helping the environment by incorporating earth-friendly design features:

- The basis of the design was to reuse and adapt as many aspects of the original buildings and the site as practical.
- Major efforts were made to minimize the impact on the existing woods.
- Our buildings are heated by a clean burning, efficient hot water boiler capable of burning any form of biomass in pellet form. We are presently burning pelletized waste wood and plan to test a blended grass pellet in the future.
- We are using high efficiency dimmable compact fluorescents lighting fixtures, fluorescent fixtures with electronic ballasts or Light-Emitting Diode (LED) accent lighting throughout the buildings. The minimal amount of exterior lighting required for safety and security incorporates a mixture of minimum candle power high efficiency metal halide parking lot fixtures on automatic timers, exterior lighting on motion sensors, and LED sidewalk lighting.
- Indoor air quality is constantly monitored and variable speed energy recovery ventilators insure an efficient air exchange is maintained at minimum levels.
- All the buildings rely on existing trees, natural ventilation, design overhangs, non-chlorofluorocarbon foam insulation, insulated window treatments, and low-e windows where new windows and skylights were used to reduce the heating and cooling loads.

- If needed, cooling for the building is done via ground water pumped from a nearby artesian well and returned to a pond on the site that serves double duty for fire protection.
- Interior and exterior heating/ventilating/cooling and electrical systems are constantly monitored by an on-site system which is able to send messages should problems occur.
- As often as possible, environmentally-conscious products and finishes were selected for the interior spaces such as bamboo and Marmoleum flooring, refinished original wood floors, low Volatile Organic Compound latex paints and stains, reused cabinetry, and furnishings.
- Maple harvested on the property was used wherever practical in the Sanctuary and some logs were donated to the University of Vermont for use in their “green” building projects.
- The copper roof from the portions of the original building that had to be removed to allow for the Sanctuary were reused on the building.
- Recycle North, a local recycling and deconstruction company, was hired to take down the salvageable portions of the building to allow for the new construction to begin. This included windows, doors, insulation, electrical outlets and two greenhouse window structures.
- We are committed to practicing and teaching the principles of recycling and reusing. We use biodegradable cups, plates, napkins, utensils and trash bags. These products are made from sugarcane, grass, reed plasma and can be placed in our compost bin after our potlucks. Everything is biodegradable!