

Environment Committee

"The justified concern about threats to the environment present in so many parts of the world is reinforced by Christian hope, which commits us to working responsibly for the protection of Creation." Benedict XVI, *Sacramentum Caritatis*



The Environment Committee at Sacred Heart is engaged in the work of environmental care and stewardship. Caring for our natural environment shows respect and love for the Creator as well as respect and love for our fellow creatures, both human and otherwise. This is a matter of stewardship and a matter of justice. Made in God's own image, human beings are both an integral part of the ongoing Creation and the stewards who must protect all that God has given. The committee will focus on three broad areas: theology of the environment, caring for the environment within Sacred Heart, caring for the environment in our neighborhoods and the broader world.

What We Have Done in the Three Past Years:

Conducted energy audits of the parish plant to determine how to reduce energy use and to save money. Began recycling in the parish offices. Had CFL/Advent kit light bulb and Sacred Heart reusable bag sales. In conjunction with Georgia Interfaith Power and Light, developed Georgia Power Credit program to benefit Sacred Heart outreach ministries. Participated in the annual archdiocesan observance of Earth Day. Stopped the purchase of Styrofoam products by the parish and instituted the use of recyclable products at parish social events.

What We Want to Do This Upcoming Year:

Complete implementation of the energy audit of the parish plant. Provide resources to parishioners to help them learn how to conserve energy. Develop parish programs and projects for energy stewardship.

Members: Lori Conti, Kathleen Curran, Nick DiLuzio, Terry Hynes, Carol McCannon, Jerry Pace (chair), Mia Pond, Danielle Thompson, Pete Thorpe, Maureen and Danny Wiechert, and Janet Wells

Meetings: Quarterly. Next meeting on September 11 at 11:15.

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