

The new *Greening Task Force of Wellington* had its first meeting on December 6, 2007 and determined our scope of work.

**The mission of the Greening Task Force can be visualized in three concentric interconnecting circles and two green feeder streams that will operate to catalyze our work in this immediate, mid, and long term work:** (Those green halo's you heard about at Wellington Way are abounding in many areas! We seek to inform you of our envisioned mission and invite you to join in the part that calls to you.)

**Lifestyle group work:**

We will offer opportunities for Wellington members to gather in small groups to foster each other's ongoing lifestyle changes to live further in to our commitments, great and small, to responsible green living on our planet. "Lifestyles of Enough" groups offer regular support, education and accountability to make shifts on a monthly basis in groups of 6-8 people, covenanting together, and deepening our understanding of our biblical basis of enough. "Low Carbon Diet" groups provide tangible steps for us to impact global warming and reduce our carbon footprints as individuals and spark us to do so as a whole church community.

**Political Advocacy:**

The Greening Task Force will catalyze members at Wellington to be strategically active in our locale in arena's that are essential parts of our 'greening': advocating for public transit; providing access to participate in local food systems such as buying a farm share this coming spring, summer and fall in Community Supported Agriculture through "Growing Home Farm" which delivers right to our church; and through upcoming winter farmers markets, such as will be held at Wellington on January 26, 2008 and at other local churches.

**Greening our building facility:**

We will soon receive a free energy audit from Shore Bank for our physical plant that will serve as our basis for a number of areas of work to operate our space in more efficient and green ways. Our current energy usage of approximately \$25,000 per year for gas and electricity is a top concern. Our passion will be devoted to providing the congregation with information, expertise, as well as hands on labor so as to continually be at work to align our practices with our commitments. Our scope includes long, mid, and short term work to upgrade our building's overall means of energy use and instituting greener technologies over time, to encouraging bike use/parking, right down to installing discounted florescent light bulbs through Interfaith Power and Light.

***Feeder stream to Council and Committees:***

The Greening Task Force intends to provide constant "*seeding*" for each Committee on the Church Council with support, resources, and vision for the areas of work that intersect with theirs. The Greening Task Force seeks to both offer help as well as be consulted in decisions regarding assisting the church to green its work in Worship, Faith Education, Property and Finance, Outreach, Congregational Life, and all areas of our life together. Please use this two-way green "stream" as we green our thinking and work in all areas.

***Feeder stream of Publicity and Education:***

The Greening Task Force will provide ongoing “*seeding*” of publicity of each piece of the mission of greening our church and lives. Promotion, celebration, and alert to the church’s efforts to ‘green’ are a core part of our envisioned task. The Greening Task Force will enable all **members of Wellington** to be inspired to help undertake the greening work, as well as be a trumpet voice for **Wellington to lead in the city of Chicago**, in “walking the talk”, as we as one place of worship covenants to live in to a new earth community in partnership with the planet’s resources and all species. Please consult with us regularly and use this two-way green “stream” to promote greening events and efforts.

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The above mission of the new **Greening Task Force for Wellington** is based on an invitation from the Church Council and two sources. The first source was the brainstorming that came out of the September church retreat at Tower Hill to be and embody a “new earth community.” The second includes the study and discussion groups on David Korten’s “The Great Turning” that occurred earlier in the year, as well as the inspiration from the worship life we share, our pastor, and lay leaders who lead this work.

We invite your participation to join our Task Force as we commence in this mandate. It is a great time to jump in if you are ready to contribute your interest and energy. The greening we envision will require the ongoing work of many hands, hearts and minds at Wellington. You are most welcome to come to any of our meetings on the first Thursday of each month. Our next meeting will be **Thursday January 3, 7:30-9:00 pm in the church narthex**. Please also feel free to contact Co-Chairs regarding project work and ideas, if you can not make a meeting:

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