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## Green Sanctuaries Program

One of the things on which all religions agree is the importance of acting responsibly towards all of God's creation. The Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life of Southern California (CoejISC) and the Interfaith Environmental Council (IEC) seek to unite the various religious institutions in the Los Angeles area through this common commitment to protect and conserve the Earth and its natural resources and to promote environmental justice by caring for those people who experience the greatest impact from ecological degradation.

IEC is working in partnership with CoejISC to educate and activate our greater faith community in order to respond to the pressing and complex environmental challenges that we all face today; such as a lack of sufficient clean energy generation, the need for additional water and energy conservation, the need for greater environmental justice, and building effective strategies for resource sustainability. ***Our fundamental goal is to implement sound and equitable environmental practices within our communities and their institutions, and to instill the principle of environmental stewardship in present and future generations.***

We are committed to collaborating with the many diverse communities of faith in order to promote this environmental consciousness and affect behavior change. ***To this end, the IEC has developed a comprehensive pilot program focusing on conservation, effective use of natural resources, and other environmentally friendly initiatives called Green Sanctuaries.***

*Green Sanctuaries* (the pilot program) is being implemented at 16 churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and other prominent affiliated faith institutions throughout the City of Los Angeles. It will serve as a model of environmental action to the various communities of Los Angeles. It will go beyond merely instituting environmentally friendly measures in the faith institutions; ***it will exhort Los Angeles' hundreds of thousands of congregants to implement such measures in their own homes and businesses.***

The four projects within the *Green Sanctuaries* program are: (1) the Green Eternal Light Project, (2) the Green Facilities Project, (3) the Greening Guide and Curriculum Development, and (4) the Interfaith Environmental Youth Task Force. After successfully implementing the program at the 16 pilot institutions and evaluating its successes, the IEC will expand the program to include additional faith institutions throughout Los Angeles and elsewhere.

While the pilot program focuses on the 16 institutions mentioned above, we hope that you will work towards becoming a Green Sanctuary by calling on CoejISC to help you implement some of the programmatic options found on the back of this page.

**The mission of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life of Southern California (CoejISC) is to instill a commitment to environmental protection rooted in Jewish values.**

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3637 Motor Ave., Suite 100 Los Angeles, CA 90034  
Tel. 310-841-2970 Fax. 310-202-0433 E-mail [info@faith2green.com](mailto:info@faith2green.com)  
[www.fait2green.com](http://www.fait2green.com)

