

THE GREENING TREE PROJECT

I have had enough doom and gloom around the climate emergency. Sure, there is lots of bad news out there right now. The media will tell you how we are all doomed and will likely incite more division; they love to do that. Yet, good news is out there. Oddly enough, I have never been so excited for our future, and I believe I have found a way Nanaimo Unitarians can make a world of difference.

IMAGINE

I want you to imagine a new world.

Imagine a world where people transport by electric vehicles and buses; chargers are ubiquitous so range anxiety is a thing of the past; buildings are heated with clean energy and well insulated.

Imagine a world where solar panels cover the tops of many office buildings, rec centres, houses, even churches; there is a wind farm on top of Mt. Benson and tidal power down at Dodd's narrows, all bringing clean energy to our homes.



Imagine feeling secure in our future with affordable housing, full employment in the clean energy sector, and treatment options for the mentally ill and addicted

Imagine that a billion of our BC tax dollars are going towards solving homelessness and schools, not fracking and pipelines.

Imagine the security knowing that we have prevented trillions of \$\$ of damage that might have been caused by climate change and instead used that money for remediation, guaranteed minimum income and better health and seniors' care



BUT HOW?

We all want to go down this path but how? Sometimes we feel powerless to even dream this big. However, we have a way we can get started and begin the journey to a better future. You are powerful, you have agency, you do count.



We now introduce to you the Greening Tree project. The Children's RE are going to build a cardboard tree here in the hall, but it will have no leaves. And that's where you can help. We are going to fill that tree with leaves. Each leaf will be a story about what you have done to make the world a better place. This can be anything, from cutting out meat from some meals, turning down your thermostat, buying an electric vehicle, writing a letter to an MP or MLA, attending a webinar or a rally. The possibilities are endless. Stop the analysis paralysis and start with something that you think is right. Individual actions are important, and policy decisions by our government are more so, which is why advocacy is a big part of this movement. Maybe what you do won't shake up the whole world, but it might just shiver a leaf on a tree.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

You will have a chance during Sunday service to tell your story and add your leaf to the tree. And there is no limit, we will have many branches and need lots of leaves, but the action must be new since September 2021, no sitting on our laurels of past events! The Environmental Justice Committee will be happy to help you with ideas for your leaf or check out some of the ideas on websites listed at the end of the webpage. There is room for leaves from little ones to old ones. Take any action that will help. This tree will be a testament to how we Unitarians can change the world, one leaf at a time. The Greening Tree Project will start in January and run for a complete year.

Our tree will bear fruit all by itself, but now consider how we might build a forest? Other Greening Trees in other congregations, schools, service groups, senior's centres, can change the world, and it all starts with your one leaf. Just imagine a world moving towards environmental justice starting here and now. Martin Luther King didn't have a nightmare; he had a dream.



WEBSITES WITH MULTIPLE IDEAS FOR YOUR LEAF

[Count Us In](#)

[Do Nation](#)

[Actions on Climate Change](#)

[Nine Individual Actions](#)