



Did you know? The OLG Green Commitment

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has the Environmental Justice Program (EJP) which calls Catholics to a deeper respect for God's creation and engages parishes in activities that deal with environmental problems.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church is committed to being good stewards of the environment.

- We recycle cardboard from the office and food pantry.
- We recycle paper from the parish office and parish programs.
- We encourage people attending our Sunday breakfast to use coffee mugs instead of styrofoam cups.
- We recycle aluminum cans from the hall.
- We use green certified cleaning solutions.
- We use green certified paper products.
- As often as possible, the parish purchases supplies from recycled or second-hand companies like Goodwill or TOPS, or state surplus shops.
- We are the host site for a community paper recycling program.
- In 2009 we participated in the City of Austin Lighting Retrofit Program.
- We host the annual Keep OLG Beautiful Day in conjunction with Earth Day festivities.

Upcoming Projects

OLG is committed to the environment. These small steps are our way of caring for God's creation. Stay posted for more ways OLG is committed to being green. We are currently researching glass recycling, water collection systems to help water our gardens and grounds and we are looking into using recycled office products (i.e. recycled copy paper)

The Annual Keep OLG Beautiful Day

In April 2009, in conjunction with Earth day, Our Lady of Guadalupe hosted the first annual Keep OLG Beautiful Day. Together with the Men's Ministry and the ACTS Core, the parish coordinated a day for all ministry groups and volunteers to come together and beautify the parish, celebrate community and the earth and have fun!! Lunch and music were provided.

On April 25, 2009, about 30 volunteers from the community participated in the project. Participants painted, power washed the grounds, scrubbed tables in the hall, fixed broken light fixtures, mulched and planted vines, trees, roses, bushes and plants. Together volunteers put in over 180 hours of time.

See the parish website or call the parish office for information on the annual Keep OLG Beautiful Project.

OLG as a host site for a community paper recycling program

OLG works with Abitibi Bowater, North America's largest manufacturer of recycled content newsprint for use in making newspapers. The paper you recycle today may be the newspaper you read in just a few weeks....and again in two months...and again. That process is called Full-Circle Recycling. Join OLG as we do our part to help the environment. Please bring all of your catalogs, magazines, newspapers, office/school paper and mailers to our paper retriever bin located next to the dumpster in the parish parking lot. As a parish we earn money for our programs from all the paper we collect from the community. Bring your paper and your neighbor's, friend's, and family's paper too! By bringing just 1 paper sack full of paper, to church on Sundays you can reduce your trash load at home, recycle and help the environment.

City of Austin Lighting Retrofit Program

In 2009 the parish participated in Energy Savings Strategies, an Austin Energy small business lighting program that assists parishes with energy efficiency. Through this program the parish received a rebate to cover the cost of replacing our existing light fixtures with energy efficient lights.

Upgrades to energy efficient lighting occurred in all parish facilities. Changes include:

- Florescent light that originally had ballast for 4 bulbs were changed to ballast with 2 bulbs.
- Reflectors, which are polished aluminum plates that are located above the light bulbs, were installed in each fixture to reflect all light down.
- The old ballast were magnetic, the new ballast are electronic. This serves two purposes; the old magnetic lights have coils and tar so heat was an end product of using the light. The new electronic lights do not give off as much heat.
- We also converted our 8 foot lamps to 4 foot lamps.
- 27 watt bulbs replaced bulbs that use 100 to 125 watts.
- 15 watt bulbs replaced 160 watt bulbs
- We replaced Incandescent lights with compact florescent lights (Compact Fluorescents last longer than Incandescent lights).
- Exit sign bulbs were changes from 25 watt bulbs to 5 watt bulbs.

An example of one of these changes is in fixtures that contained four-60watt light bulbs. We replaced each 60 watt bulb with 15 watt bulbs. This reduced our wattage from 240 watts per fixture to 60 watts per fixture.

The end result is better lighting, warranty on the work, no flickering, energy efficiency, less noise- no humming, lights that release less heat than before, and less replacement cost for bulbs. Overall, OLG reduced our energy consumption by a third.