



## URI Young Leaders Program Taking the Environmental Initiative Connecting with Other Programs

The Steering Committee of the Young Adult Leader Program put together the attached list of ideas for what people can do individually and in their community – to help heal the environment.

### Ways you can individually make a difference:

- Carpool, take public transportation or walk to work / school
- Recycle regularly and re-use
- Buy a water bottle rather than plastic bottles
- Read up on what others are doing for the environment in your area
- Write a blog about a local environmental issue
- Separate household waste into recyclable/glass/other
- Begin to use energy efficient lightbulbs; Install an energy switch; fit a cistern in the flush
- Shop ethically: Buy local, organic, and Fair Trade
- Research what the government policy/legislation is on the environment in your country, e.g. how much the government aims to cut carbon emissions
- Spend time in nature!
- Calculate your carbon footprint and learn how to reduce your impact:  
<http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator1.html>

### Projects you could organize in your community:

- Environmental clean-up project
- Planting trees in a public place

- Give a workshop at a local school on sustainability and environmental awareness
- Make a pledge to an environmentally-friendly organization
- Create a Green Club in your community: see recent URI Voice of Youth newsletter article on Taking the Initiative on the Environment: <http://ga08youth.com/Documents/URI%20Voice%20of%20Youth%20March%202009.htm>
- Create an Earth Charter Youth Group – a social network or organization of young activists working to bring alive the vision of the Earth Charter in their communities <http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/content/categories/Youth/>
- Distribute ethical shopping leaflets
- Organize a car share

#### **Organizations to Partner With and Support:**

- GreenFaith [www.greenfaith.org](http://www.greenfaith.org) – interfaith partners for the environment
- Interfaith Power and Light <http://www.theregenerationproject.org/>
- The Earth Charter Initiative [www.earthcharterinaction.org/](http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/) - Values and Principles for a Sustainable Future
- Greenpeace [www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org)
- Rainforest Action Network <http://ran.org>
- World Wildlife Fund <http://www.worldwildlife.org/>
- More local organizations i.e. Local Council schemes

#### **For more information, check out these resources:**

- How to Live your Values and Tread Lightly: [http://www.ocice.org/tread\\_lightly.html](http://www.ocice.org/tread_lightly.html)
- <http://www.carbonfootprint.com/minimisecfp.html>
- Useful Links from the Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment (a URI Cooperation Circle) <http://www.ocice.org/links.html>