

# Core Principles

## The Green Sabbath Project

- THE IDEA AND PRACTICE OF A WEEKLY GREEN SABBATH OR EARTH DAY IS INSPIRED BY THE ANCIENT, BIBLICAL DAY OF REST, SHABBAT. SHABBAT, IN HEBREW, REFERS TO RESTING, SITTING OR RETURNING. THE BIBLICAL SHABBAT COMMEMORATES THE WORLD'S CREATION BY GOD AND GOD'S LIBERATION OF THE ISRAELITE SLAVES FROM THEIR SERVITUDE. WE SEE IN THIS ANCIENT PRACTICE A POWERFUL TOOL FOR ADDRESSING OUR CURRENT, WORSENING SET OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND RELATED SOCIO-POLITICAL CRISES.
- A WEEKLY GREEN SABBATH SERVES AS A DAY ON WHICH WE STRIVE TO MINIMIZE OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE -- LEAVING THINGS ALONE, "DOING NOTHING" -- BASED ON THE BIBLICAL COMMAND TO "DO NO WORK OF ANY KIND," WHICH WAS ELABORATED IN THE RABBINIC CONCEPT OF THE 39 TYPES OF FORBIDDEN LABORS. A GREEN SABBATH STANDS AS A WEEKLY INTERRUPTION OF THE SUICIDAL ECONOMIC FANTASY OF INFINITE GROWTH, DIVESTMENT FROM FOSSIL FUELS, INVESTMENT IN FAMILY AND LOCAL COMMUNITY, AND MOMENT OF REWILDING. GREEN SABBATHS ARE A RITUALIZED, RECURRING TIME FOR PROGRAMMATIC INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNAL REFLECTION ON HOW WE ARE UNDOING CREATION AND A TIME FOR REVIVING OUR PASSION, ENERGY AND COMMITMENT FOR THE WORK OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE NEEDED DURING THE REST OF THE WEEK.
- WE DRAW FREELY ON THE WISDOM OF THE BIBLICAL SHABBAT AND ITS OBSERVANCE BY VARIED FAITH COMMUNITIES, WHILE ENCOURAGING EVERYONE TO FIND THEIR OWN WAY TO HONOR THE IDEA OF SABBATH.
- WE BELIEVE THAT HUMANS ARE A COMPONENT OF EARTH'S ECOSYSTEMS AND OF THE COSMOLOGICAL WHOLE, A SPIRITUAL ECOLOGY THAT SOME CALL SUPERNATURECULTURE. "NATURE" IS NOT SOMETHING SEPARATE AND "OUT THERE."



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- THE POINT OF GREEN SABBATHS IS TO GALVANIZE PEOPLE TO ACTION DURING THE REST OF THE WEEK. A WEEKLY GREEN SABBATH IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION THE REST OF THE WEEK. IT IS MEANT TO BE A STIMULUS TO ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION AND CHANGED PERSONAL BEHAVIOR. REST IS NOT ONLY FOR THE SAKE OF WITHDRAWING FROM THE WORLD BUT FOR REMEMBERING PRIORITIES, REVIVING COMMITMENTS AND RECHARGING ENERGY FOR THE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE, EQUITY, PEACE AND ABUNDANCE FOR ALL.
- WE BELIEVE THAT OUR COLLECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES ARE INSEPARABLE FROM QUESTIONS OF POLITICS, SOCIAL STRUCTURES, ECONOMICS, TECHNOLOGY, RELIGION AND SO ON. LOCAL AND PLANETARY SUSTAINABILITY WILL NOT BE BROUGHT ABOUT WITHOUT HOLISTIC HUMAN (R)EVOLUTION.
- WE WELCOME THE PARTICIPATION OF INDIVIDUALS, COMMUNITIES, CONGREGATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS HOLDING ANY RELIGION, BELIEF AND SPIRITUALITY, AS WELL AS THOSE PROFESSING HUMANISM, AGNOSTICISM OR ATHEISM.
- WE VALUE THE VIRTUES THAT WILL HELP HUMANITY OUTGROW ITS PROPENSITY TO DEVALUE, MISTREAT AND EXPLOIT OTHERS, BOTH HUMAN AND NON-HUMAN: SELF-KNOWLEDGE, MINDFULNESS, OPENNESS, RESPECT FOR OTHERS, COOPERATION, MUTUAL AID AND THE DESIRE TO REDUCE SUFFERING.
- WE AIM TO CONDUCT OUR ACTIVITIES WITH AS MINIMAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AS POSSIBLE.



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