

The Alliance for Senior Services presents:

Green Burial

A 2022 EARTH DAY WEBINAR

By Shari Haber, My Great Goodbye

About Me

Shari Haber, Founder of My Great Goodbye

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- Member, NJ Health Care Quality Institute
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- Member, The Alliance for Senior Services

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My Great
Goodbye

Burial = Pollution?

IN THE UNITED STATES, EACH YEAR WE BURY THE FOLLOWING:

- 827,060 gallons embalming fluid, incl. formaldehyde
- 180,544,000 pounds of steel in caskets
- 5,400,000 pounds of copper and bronze in caskets
- 30 million board feet of hardwood in caskets
- 3,272,000,000 pounds of reinforced concrete vaults
- 28,000,000 pounds of steel in vaults

Source: Cornell University



Green Burial

Caring for the dead w/minimal environmental impact, and aiding in the conservation of natural resources:

- No toxic embalming
- Biodegradable containers, caskets, shrouds, urns (unvarnished/sustainable woods w/no metal trim)
- No vaults/cement liners
- Reduction of carbon emissions
- Sustainable land management/preservation & restoration of natural habitat
- Protection of worker health



Green Burial

- Biodegradable containers
- Caskets & Shrouds



(Includes untreated woods, sea grass/bamboo/willow/peace silk)



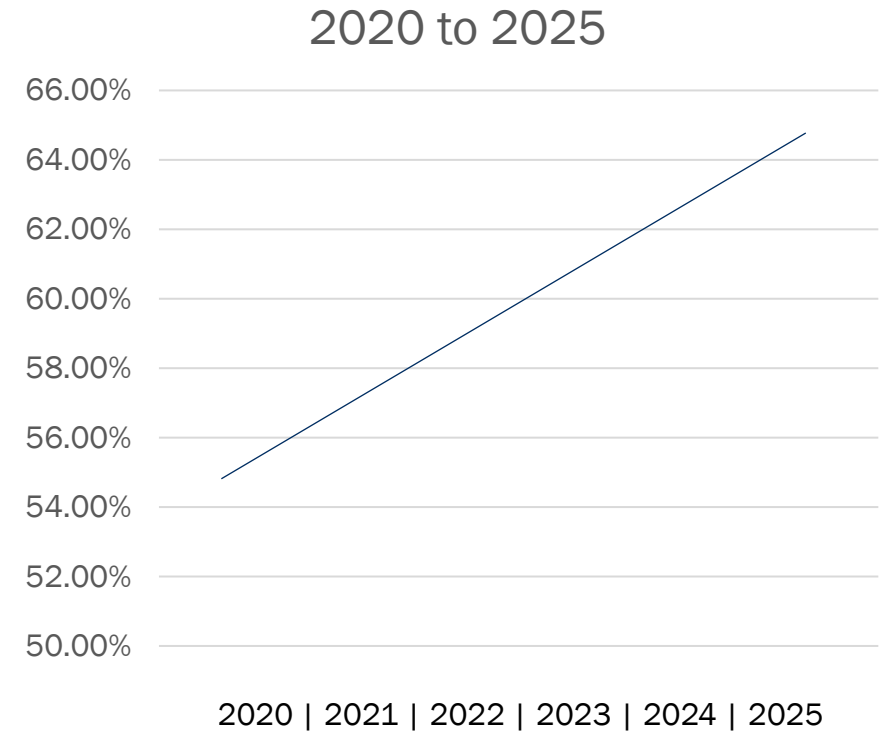
Green Cemeteries



Flame Cremation

In 2020, 56.1 %
Americans; projected
to be 65.2% by 2025

(Source: CANA)



Reasons for Cremation

Practical

- Can be a less expensive option
- Decreased cemetery space
- Perception of eco-friendliness

Personal

- Declining affiliation w/ organized religion
- Increasingly mobile society
- Changing attitudes of Baby Boomer generation
- Flexibility

Aquamation

Water Cremation

- Uses water instead of fire
- Over 90% energy savings
- No greenhouse gas emissions
- No fossil fuel burning
- 20% more ash remains

AQUAMATION



A flameless process that uses water instead of fire.



Over 90% energy savings when compared to flame-based cremation.



No direct emissions of harmful greenhouse gases or mercury.



No burning of fossil fuels.



20% more ash remains returned to the family.

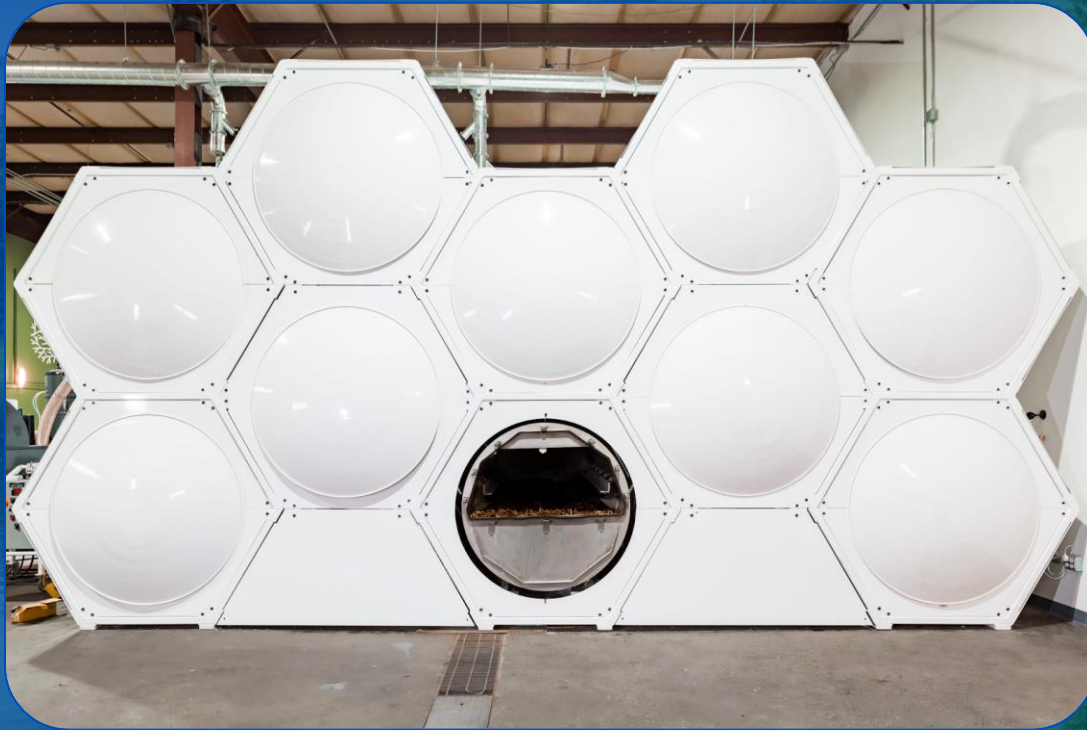


Learn more:
aquamationinfo.com

Aquamation



Natural Organic Reduction



What Remains





Alternative / Green “Cemeteries”



Green Urns



Green(er) Modifications

- Use a GBC-certified or NFDA Green Funeral Practices Certificate Program member FH
- Don't have the body embalmed if no viewing (or request non-toxic embalming fluids)
- Choose a casket made from sustainable materials or untreated wood; no metal trim
- Select a burial outfit made of natural fibers, ideally already owned vs buying new
- Forgo printed invites/funeral programs; list funeral program on a board or project
- Pass out eco-friendly memorial momentos like garden seeds & plantable cards
- Select a green cemetery rather than conventional burial grounds



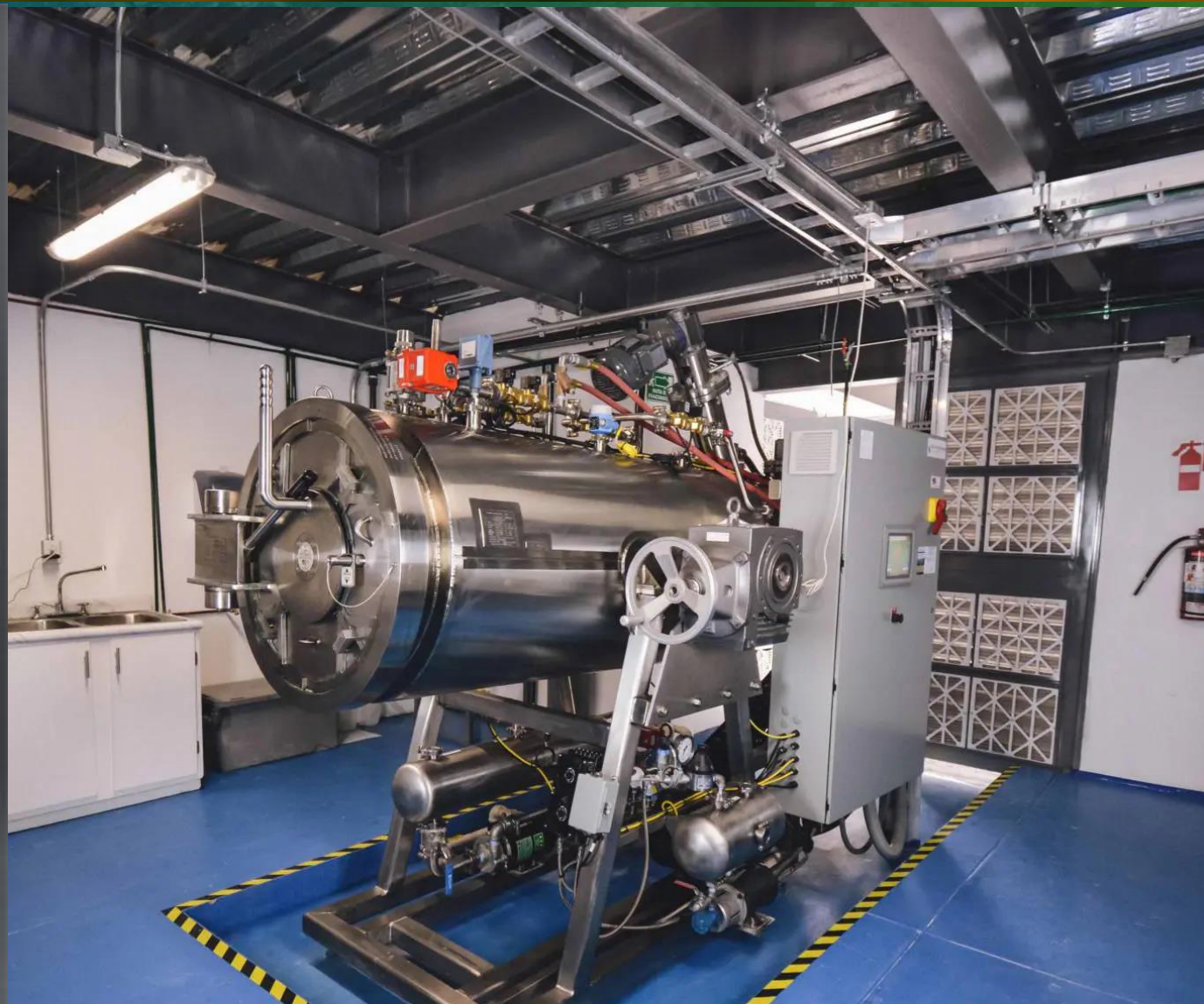
Green(er) Modifications

- Choose EV or hybrid hearse/vehicles to transport the decedent/family to the cemetery
- Pick a crematorium that is energy efficient w/minimal toxin release & offers metal recycling
- Contribute to a carbon offset fund or global warming initiative
- Rent a casket for the funeral service and use an eco-friendly container for cremation
- Select an urn made from recycled or biodegradable materials
- Keep ashes at home or scatter in nature/offshore
- Serve organic food at the wake/memorial/repast/shiva; donate/compost leftovers





Luke Perry
1966-2019



Archbishop Desmond Tutu:
1931 - 2021

Legacy







Shari Haber, Founder

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