



"Earth Wise Tips"

brought to you by

The PCC Green Justice Ministry Team

Why Go Green in Your Congregation

Go Green in your congregation to reduce energy use (and cost), reduce your contribution to global warming, and reduce mining. You would also be affirming the vote of this year's PCC Annual Meeting to endorse the "Transition from Fossil Fuels to Renewable Energy" resolution. This resolution went before the 2015 General Synod meeting in Cleveland in late June where it was expanded and strengthened to have a goal of making the transition to renewable energy by 2040. It now also includes a recommendation that the United Church of Christ model this commitment in all of its religious and administrative buildings. This was agreed to by 88% of the vote. So we have many reasons to Go Green.

How can you make this happen, how do you Go Green? The UCC Cornerstone Fund gives us an example. Holy Pilgrim Reformed UCC was spending about \$1,500 a month on energy, of which they estimate that \$600 was for lighting alone. The church made some changes. They replaced incandescent bulbs with CFLs and exit signs with LEDs. They replaced light switches with occupancy sensors, and installed programmable thermostats. They check that everything is turned off when the building is vacant. They replaced the old refrigerator with a new donated EnergyStar model. They sealed air leaks by adding weatherstripping and caulking around windows and doors. These improvements lowered their energy bill by more than \$500 a month. They then decided to install a new heating ventilating and air conditioning system (HVAC), and other changes at a cost of \$25,000, which they did not have. They obtained an EcoLoan from the Cornerstone Fund, which over a 5 year term has monthly payments just under \$500. Their first round of improvements provided the funds to finance the second, much larger, project.

To learn more come to one of two workshops to be held on October 2 or 3 in Lewisburg, or Elizabethtown, respectively. Andy Rudin from the Interfaith Coalition on Energy will discuss ways of saving energy in church buildings, which are unlike residences. He has done energy audits on some of the churches in our Conference. Chuck Hollingsworth of the UCC Cornerstone Fund will discuss their EcoLoan Program for financing Going Green projects.

The workshop registration information can be found under Recent News at www.pccucc.org or in the Quick Links in this Monthly Mailing.