

Steps Our Church is Taking to Reduce Our Carbon Footprint and Why

At our Annual Meeting on January 29, 2017, our congregation voted to reduce the carbon pollution from our church building by 50% by the year 2030. The Building and Grounds Team and Green Boat Team are working to make this happen.

The first steps to accomplish this goal are to focus on energy efficiency measures that reduce the amount of electricity and natural gas we use in our building. This lowers our carbon emissions and also fixes things in our building that need to be fixed. In addition, the completed steps have already lowered our church's MidAmerican monthly budget billing amount by \$150.

- Energy efficiency steps already completed:

Added additional insulation.
Installed LED lighting in the sanctuary.

- Energy efficiency steps underway and soon to be completed:

Installed more efficient heating and air conditioning.
Installed LED lighting in the education wing.

- Energy efficiency steps yet to be done:

Install additional more efficient heating and air conditioning.
Install additional LED lighting throughout the building.
Install more efficient water heaters.
Install more efficient appliances.
Consider other steps, such as more sophisticated thermostats.

The second step to reduce our carbon emissions even further is to consider the installation of an appropriate number of solar panels on the west roof of the education wing. The appropriate number of solar panels will be based on our building's estimated energy use after installation of the above energy efficiency steps. Solar panels will allow us to generate some of the electricity we use with renewable generation that has no carbon emissions. The solar panels are expected to have a useful life of 20-25 years.

God calls us to *love the world* (John 3:16), *love our neighbors as ourselves* (Mark 12:31), *abide by our covenant with God, which is with "every living creature" and "for all generations"* (Gen 9:13), and *do justice* (Micah 6:8).

When we take these concrete steps to reduce our building's carbon emissions, we are following this call and implementing the congregation's vote to reduce our building's carbon pollution.