

Getting to Net Zero Carbon Emissions



What ideas are motivating the SC Green Team?

- Science says the world needs to cut carbon emissions in half by 2030, and to Zero by 2050.
 - This is now the law in Massachusetts (Next-Gen Climate Bill, March 2021)
 - Everyone needs to participate to achieve this transformation.
- Our faith calls us to be caretakers for our planet
 - *The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it...* (Psalm 24:1)
 - *Love God and love your neighbor as yourself...* (Matthew 22)
 - ONCET Vision: “To boldly embody God’s love and compassion”

At the 2013 General Synod the National UCC adopted a resolution encouraging all congregations, and individual members, to become Carbon Neutral by 2030.

for details see: uccfiles.com/pdf/gs29-2.pdf

Excerpts From *Earthrise* By Amanda Gorman



So, earth, pale blue dot
We will fail you not.

With climate change
It is the obscure,
the oppressed, the poor,
Who when the disaster
Is declared done,
Still suffer more than anyone.

With climate change
We choose to end it—
We refuse to lose.
Together we do this and more
Not because it's very easy or nice
But because it is necessary

South Church Is An Environmental Leader

- South Church a UCC Level 3 Green Congregation
 - Solar Panels: with much inspiration to the community
 - Insulated the Sanctuary ceiling
 - Recycling
 - Parish Center Green Design
 - Giving Garden uses green agriculture
 - ...
- South Church is recognized as an environmental leader in the community and across the UCC
- Let's take the the next step and pledge to become a Net-Zero leader.

What Does South Church Need To Reduce Our Carbon Footprint?



What is the largest component of South Church's carbon footprint?

Energy to heat, cool and light the building: 110 tons/year in 2019

What is the biggest part of that?

Natural gas for heating: 100 tons/year in 2019

What should our first step be to reduce our Carbon Footprint?

Replace our 70-year-old steam heating system: 80-90% of our gas use

What do we do next?

Engage the congregation to build support for a new low-carbon heating system.

Vision:



South Church Readies For The Next Century

- Improving our infrastructure while lowering our carbon footprint
 - While adding air conditioning and improving indoor air quality
- Demonstrating South Church is equipped to deal with upcoming world challenges
- Involving the congregation and the community with the project and learnings
- Leading the transformation to a green economy for our community and members

And...

- Enhancing the capital campaign by broadening the scope of its benefits

What does the solution look like?

- We don't know exactly, but together we need to figure it out.
- We want to raise the excitement level about doing something boldly positive.
- First...
 - The Church needs to study what can be done, what works, and what doesn't work.
 - We want the congregation to be broadly aware of the options, and broadly supportive.
 - We need alignment with the capital campaign.



Steps in moving forward



- Share notion with the Church
 - Preliminary Church Council Review
 - Meet with related committees
 - Incorporate their thinking in the project plan
 - Brief congregation at our June Annual Meeting
- Gauge practicality of the different approaches for our building
 - Engineering study (already funded by off-budget contributions, starting soon.)
- Learn from the experience of others
 - Input from knowledgeable Church members
 - Project studies, including zoom tours for interested members
- Offer the Church community a series of options for moving forward
- Align discussion with Capital Campaign
- Pick solution, gain approval

What you can do

Share with us whether you think Net Zero is an important goal

- *If you are not sure:*
 - If you have concerns or need to know more: Reach out
- *If you agree:*
 - Talk up Net Zero
 - Invite us to meetings to explain and brainstorm Net Zero
 - Adopt a Net Zero resolution at Annual Meeting
 - Support inclusion of Net Zero steps in the the capital campaign
 - Pledge your financial support
 - Do you have Zero carbon expertise? - Tell us about it
 - Are you enthusiastic with free time? - join the team