

## **Green Notes: Weekly tips for reducing your carbon footprint from First United Methodist's Green Team**

### **We can harness the sun to power our church!**

First UMC's Green Team is collecting pledges to offset the cost of installing solar panels on the roof of our church. This process currently includes application for a grant from NorthWestern Energy to offset up to 70 percent of the project's cost, as well as soliciting pledges from our congregation and the many nonprofit groups that share our church building.

Our goal is to receive enough pledges to purchase 80 solar panels at \$250 a piece. Already, members of our Green Team and Faith & Justice Sunday School class have pledged \$4,000 – or 16 panels.

Now we need help from all of you! Should you be willing to pledge a financial contribution toward the purchase of one or more solar panels (or part of one), you can do so with the knowledge that this investment is projected to save the church 90% in electricity costs which would otherwise rely upon the burning of fossil fuels.

Green Team members, along with Pastor John Daniels and two church trustees, recently met with SBS Solar to begin work on a solar installation. SBS will provide us with a formal proposal this spring, and will help prepare the grant application to NorthWestern Energy by May 1. We need your pledges (not money, at this point) to show our congregation's support for the project.

**To make your pledge, contact Green Team co-chair Jim Gillison at (406) 546-1359 or by email at**

[james.gillison@msn.com](mailto:james.gillison@msn.com), or talk to any other member of the Green Team, Pastor John or Genevieve in the church office. Let's go solar, First Church! It's the right thing to do.