



Green Notes: The Sun's Power Comes to Missoula First UMC

Missoula Methodists made history once more in August, when 66 solar panels were installed atop the church's Education Annex – enough to provide at least 80 percent of our building's electricity.

The month began with news that NorthWestern Energy awarded First UMC an E+ Renewable Energy Grant of \$46,323 for the project. That funding combined with a \$1,000 grant from the UMC's Mountain Sky Conference, \$1,500 from SBS Solar and \$18,353 in contributions from our incredible congregation to pay the entire cost of the installation.

Many, many thanks to everyone who contributed so generously of their time and money to bring Missoula's oldest Protestant church into the clean energy future. What a remarkable achievement. We didn't even begin this project until January, and we're about to begin electric generation!

A crew from Missoula's SBS Solar installed the array during the week of August 15, working early each morning in hopes of escaping the hottest

temperatures of the day. Theirs was the biggest piece of the construction project. Next comes electrical work by an SBS sub-contractor, a city inspection and the final connection to NorthWestern Energy's power grid.

September should bring our first days of solar-power generation AND a big Sunday morning celebration. Stay tuned to the weekly announcements, the church's website and your email inbox for the date, time and details of the event. We'll invite local media, all our downtown neighbors, NorthWestern Energy, SBS Solar, our many contributors, and the entire First UMC congregation. Let the sun shine!

(In the meantime, here are several beautiful photographs from the installation process, taken for First UMC by Missoula's Sander Tollefson.)



