



Green Notes: Weekly Updates from First United Methodist's Green Team

Solar Panel Project Receives \$1,000 Grant from Mountain Sky Conference

April's showers left us awash in good news about First Church's solar panel project. The latest? Our proposed 66-panel installation received a \$1,000 grant from the Mountain Sky Conference's Creation Justice Task Force!

In all, 13 churches in the 374-church region were awarded grants for projects intended to decrease their energy consumption and carbon footprint. The grants totaled \$7,600.

"The response to the grant process was significant, and although we were not able fund any project in full, we are excited that the funding you receive will be a catalyst for the project," the Rev. Janet Mulroy wrote in the award letter.

The 13 churches sought a combined \$18,250 in funding, far more than the amount available in this year's initial round of grants. Money for the awards came from a Miles of Love offering collected at the 2021 Annual Conference and from the conference's Creation Justice budget.

While each grant application was judged on a rating scale, with six criteria and 65 possible points, the Creation Justice Task Force's Local Church Engagement Committee ultimately decided to award each applicant at least some money to help their project move forward.

We are grateful, and honored, to have received \$1,000 toward our solar installation. Total cost of the project is \$66,175. Members of First UMC's congregation have pledged \$18,353 toward that total, and this week we applied for a \$46,322 E+ Renewable Energy Grant from NorthWestern Energy. We'll hear back on that request in August.

In the meantime, First Church's Green Team is at work on a to-do list for the weeks and months to come. One source of inspiration could be the Mountain Sky Conference awards. In addition to First UMC, here are the churches and projects winning grants for 2022:

Beulah UMC, Colo., LED lightbulbs; Christ Church UMC, Denver, pollinator garden project; Christ Church UMC, Salt Lake City, installation of EV charger in parking lot; Grace UMC, Billings, LED lightbulbs and fixtures; Grand Valley UMC, Parachute, Colo., double-pane thermal windows; Manzanola UMC, Colo., exterior doors and windows; Smoky Hill UMC, Centennial, Colo., LED lightbulbs; St. Luke's UMC, Highlands Ranch, Colo., energy audit; St. Paul's UMC, Helena, energy audit; The Land, Aurora, Colo., solar panels; Wesley Foundation, Boulder, Colo., community container garden; Wesley House, Missoula, window replacement.

What projects should First UMC and our Green Team tackle next? Would you like to join the Team? Our next meeting is at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4. Email co-chair Jim Gillison at james.gillison@msn.com with your suggestions or to join!