

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

Missoula needs 100 percent clean electricity!

In April 2019, Missoula city and county leaders adopted a resolution that pledged to power our community with wind, solar, geothermal and hydro – clean electricity – within 10 years.

The city's biggest businesses endorsed the measure: St. Patrick Hospital, Missoula Federal Credit Union, Logjam Presents, the University of Montana and its Associated Students, WGM Group, MMW Architects and more. No one spoke in opposition at a joint meeting of the City Council and county commissioners.

Everyone seemingly understood the need for urgent, decisive action to stop the planet's warming. Where better to start than at home?

But other than a few attempts at public education and lobbying, we've moved no closer to 100 percent clean electricity in the past two and a half years. Fossil fuels – coal, oil and natural gas – remain Missoula's dominant source of energy. In fact, our carbon footprint has increased.

Now, 350 Montana is leading a campaign to lobby City Council members at each of their Monday night meetings for the next six months, urging immediate action to convert Missoula to 100 percent clean electricity. First Church's Green Team has joined that effort, and plans to submit written comments (along with our newly adopted Climate Covenant), and to testify at upcoming council meetings.

We hope all members of our congregation will add their voices to the call for action. If you're ready to provide public comment (via Zoom) as part of 350 Montana's campaign, you can sign up at this link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14sAUR8AcgYsGAufciBNjF0BNGf0T6YliGHL5LN-D6c/edit?usp=sharing> . 350 Montana will get you on the council agenda, and provide you with a link for the meeting.

To submit written comments, all council members can be reached via this email address: council@ci.missoula.mt.us . All emails submitted will be delivered to each of the 12 City Council members and will be published as public comment on the city of Missoula's website.

Watch First Church's Green Notes in the weeks ahead for more information on how Missoula can achieve 100 percent clean electricity and what other cities have done to move toward that same goal. Make your voice heard!