



Green Notes: Narthex Solar Display Takes Shape

Pastor John Daniels and Green Team co-chair Jim Gillison installed a computer monitor in First UMC's Narthex this week that will soon display – in real time – our building's production of electricity.

Once our rooftop array goes live, the monitor will be logged into SolarEdge's website and will show power production stats – minute-by-minute, daily, monthly, yearly. Bar graphs will compare one month (and year) to the next. Infographics will describe our system's environmental benefits -- how much carbon we've kept out of the atmosphere, for example.

It's a slick and easy to understand display. Want a sneak preview? Here's a look at the SolarEdge site for Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Bonner. Just click on [this link](#).

We're excited to see First Church's solar power light up the new Narthex monitor. Our system's annual production will be about 34,000 kWh per year – enough to supply at least 80 percent of our building's electricity. And the more we find ways to conserve electricity, the higher that percentage will go!

Alongside the Narthex monitor, you'll find two beautiful new plaques – the first, thanking the many donors who financed our 66-panel solar array so it is paid-in-full from Day 1. The largest contribution came from NorthWestern Energy, which awarded our church a \$46,323 renewable energy grant. The second plaque displays First Church's [Climate Covenant](#), unanimously adopted by our congregation last November.

On the small table beneath the computer monitor, First Church's Green Team will provide brochures describing our solar project and history, and providing information on how homeowners and businesses can go about placing a solar array on their rooftops. We are also working on informational posters that will sit on easels located alongside the monitor. Those posters will be part of a rotating informational exhibit on solar power and renewable energy.

Speaking of which, we want to make sure everyone at First Church knows about **Climate Smart Missoula's upcoming Climate and Clean Energy Expo – Saturday, Sept. 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Caras Park**. It's free, and will feature local solar installers, climate and sustainability groups and businesses, mini-presentations on climate and energy topics, an electric vehicle and bike show, and children's activities. Here's a link to the [full agenda](#).

Stay tuned, First Church! September promises to be another historic month for Missoula First UMC. Get ready to celebrate!