

First United Methodist's Green Team asks: What are your Climate Resolutions for 2022?

We open the new year filled with hope for the future and a commitment to action that protects and heals our planet. As members of First UMC, we greet 2022 with a newly adopted Climate Covenant that guides our individual and congregational lives.

“We resolve to accept our moral obligation to be responsible stewards of God’s creation and advocates for social justice,” our covenant says. “We will transform our despair, anger and sadness about climate change and human suffering into action that helps to heal our world and all of humanity.”

How will you change your life in the year ahead to honor our Climate Covenant? What action will you take? How will you lead?

Here are a few of our Climate Resolutions for 2022:

Speak out for 100 percent clean electricity. In April 2019, city and county officials pledged to power Missoula with wind, solar, geothermal and hydro – clean electricity – within 10 years. Nearly three years later, we remain heavily dependent on fossil fuels, and the [city's carbon emissions](#) have increased. During 2022, members of our First UMC Green Team will provide public comment at City Council meetings, urging Missoula to act now to achieve 100 percent clean electricity.

Reduce, reuse, recycle. As surely as are fossil fuels, our throwaway society is powering climate change. Let us resolve in the year ahead to: Buy less. Repair and reuse more. When we do buy, choose products that will last. Throw away a lot less stuff. Recycle everything we can. Don't buy products that come in non-recyclable containers. Avoid single-use plastics like the eco-scourge that they are. First Church can help. Our Green Team provides glass recycling for members who pay \$5 monthly. All the glass is reused in other products. Contact sherrydevlin@gmail.com and start recycling glass in 2022.

Go solar! Join our Green Team as we investigate First Church's options for installing solar panels on our building or property in 2022. Carole Addis is leading the project and already has found two possible sources of grant money. Next up will be a site tour with SBS Solar of Missoula, which recently installed a 30-panel, 12 kW solar system at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Bonner. We hope to follow their lead, and in doing so inspire solar installations at other Missoula churches.

Call and write your state and national leaders, and corporate boards and CEOs. Every chance you get, let your voice be heard by the corporate and political leaders whose decisions will determine our planet's future. The Green Team recently sent our Climate Covenant to Sens. Jon Tester and Steve Daines, Rep. Matt Rosendale and Gov. Greg Gianforte. We asked each to outline their plans for significant climate action. Next on our to-write list is NorthWestern Energy's CEO and Board of Directors. We'll tell

utility execs that we want a clean energy future for Montana – not the network of methane power plants they're backing. We want investments in energy storage systems, and solar and wind farms. We want a livable planet.