

Interfaith Power and Light (IPL), a faith-based environmental organization with chapters in 40 states, will take a scroll to the UN Paris Climate Talks in December 2015 that bears the names of congregations **–including ours–** that have pledged to reduce their carbon footprint by 50% by 2030, and set a goal to reduce by 100% (i.e. to be carbon neutral) by 2050. As of August 2015 about 100 congregations had signed the Paris Pledge, including a dozen other Unitarian Universalist congregations.



Interfaith Power & Light
A RELIGIOUS RESPONSE TO GLOBAL WARMING

WHY WE TOOK THE PLEDGE



Members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington *Green Sanctuary Task Force* believe that fighting to slow –and preparing to deal with– global warming is our greatest generational challenge, and that our congregation should lead by example. The UU church of Bloomington is already a UUA certified Green Sanctuary an IPL *Certified Cool Congregation*, having already reduced our carbon footprint by 50% compared to 2008.

FURTHER LOWERING OUR ENERGY USE

Our task force's next goal is to reduce by another 25% by 2030. The church already plans to continue making building improvements and investing in efficient equipment & lighting upgrades, and continues to set aside funds each year toward this end. We will continue to monitor thermostat settings and manage our use of rooms to lessen the need to heat or cool as many spaces during the week.

You can help by remembering to only use the up and down arrows on the programmable thermostats to temporarily change the temperature in a room, and by closing doors (and the kitchen folding screen!) as well as turning off lights when leaving a room.

BECOMING CARBON NEUTRAL

In the 2014-15 fiscal year, after implementing conservation and efficiency measures, our solar panels created 62% of the energy used by the church, about half of which was sent back to the grid and credited for later use. To become carbon neutral will take the installation of **additional renewable energy** to offset the energy use we cannot eliminate. The Green Sanctuary Task Force (GSTF) Paris Pledge working group will create a tentative plan for our church in the 2015-16 year. We will work with other congregations that pledged –including the dozen other UU congregations– as well as with members of Earth Care, our local Interfaith Power and Light affiliate, to develop a plan.

INTERESTED?

You are invited to join the GSTF Paris Climate Pledge Working Group or attend a monthly GSTF meeting to learn more. The Paris Pledge group will meet during the second portion of the regular task force meetings, held the first Sunday of the month at 12:45 PM in the Fuchs Library. See presentation at our December 2015 congressional meeting. Or contact us with your ideas by emailing Molly O'Donnell with Paris Pledge in your subject line.

Individuals can also take the pledge!



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