

# OUR CHURCH -BECOMING GREEN

## Projects

- ✓ Rain Garden planted on SE corner of Church - Autumn 2025
- ✓ **Solar Project Phase II** - awning on south end of west side
  - Meeting with Norm Johnson -Tuesday December 12,2023
  - Information session for church members - January 8, 2024
  - Information sharing and fundraising - Jan and Feb, 2024
  - Contract signed -
  - Installation - July 2024
  - Operational and producing electric - August 2024
  - Solar Panels Contractor: Independent Renewable Energy, Sandwich Il <https://iresolar.com/>
- ✓ **Collection of old/nonworking holiday strings of lights** and taken to recycle - December and January 2023, 2024, 2025
- ✓ Worked with Kitchen Crews to develop and write guidelines for church: "**A Greener Kitchen**" - 2025
- ✓ Worked with Shepherds Leadership Team for a membership in **Clearway Community Solar** for remainder of electricity, sourced from solar farm - connected August 2024
- ✓ Funday Sunday 2 sessions presented by Green Team:  
**Environmental Footprint and Solar for your home** - Sunday, October 24, 2023
- ✓ **Assist with All-church picnic** - Sundays, October 10, 2023, September 15, 2024, September 21, 2025

- ✓ **Rain Barrels behind garage** installed by Green Team members and Building and Grounds Team - September 2023
- ✓ **Pollinator Garden** in a section of church labyrinth, done by scout Anna Emmett, assisted by Green Team - September 9, 2023
- ✓ **Plants in four large containers in labyrinth** - summers 2023 - 2026
- ✓ **Bicycle Trip** - all invited, kids and adults - Sat, July 2023
- ✓ **Field trip to Morton Arboretum** - open to congregation - May 13, 2023, April 13, 2024, April 26, 2025
- ✓ **Solar Panels Phase I** - to reduce energy consumption and to become less reliant on fossil fuels
  - Green Team worked collaboratively researching, designing, creating a funding plan, promoting, getting approval for, and generally providing oversight to this large project - March - October 2021
  - Solar Panels Phase I - Presentation and recommendation for to Shepherds Leadership Team (SLT) by Green Team - September and October 2021
  - SLT gives approval for project - November 2021
  - Information sharing with congregation
  - Thirty panels installed as an awning on south side of church in May 2022.
  - Electricity for church is taken from the power grid by July 2022, providing approximately 30% of electricity used by church

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- ✓ **Four-year Environmental Plan was developed**, based on the input at the two workshops; the environmental plan is being used for current and future goals - May 2022
  
- ✓ **Hosted two Environmental Planning Workshops with 25** participants- Session I, May 1 and 2022 with 42 participating and Session II, May 31, 2022
  
- ✓ **Energy Audit** - done by Jim Cavallo, MwEPA.com; Dan Huntsha was present - December 7, 2021
  
- ✓ Collaborated with Church's Buildings and Grounds Team for **electricity improvements** in church- 2021 and 2022
  - Two lights on sign at corner of church property changed to solar bulbs
  - 12 lights in the parking lot were changed to LED bulbs
  - Used the Kill-o-watt device to test all appliances and electronics at church for phantom energy being used; unplugged a small seldom-used refrigerator
  
- ✓ **"Polystyrene Collection"** - two carloads of polystyrene taken to DART Container, Aurora, for recycling - June 2021, April-May 2022, 2023,2024,2024,2025 and December 2024, 2025, 2026
  
- ✓ **"Caring for our Earth"** - handout on where and how to recycle five common household items - April 2018

- ✓ **"Green Christmas"** - Green Alternative Gift List - December 2015
- ✓ **" Polystyrene Collection"** - May 2014; brought for recycling to Dart Container in Aurora, Ill - June 2014
- ✓ **"Mission 4 1 Earth"** - Participated in United Church of Christ initiative of 50 Days environmental stewardship and reported total hours - Spring 2013
- ✓ **"Value of Trees"** - Distributed dozens of white oak and white pine seedlings to church members - Spring 2011
- ✓ **"Ban the Bottle"** - project to bring awareness of negative impacts on the environment from plastic water bottles; information for re-usable thermos 'and mugs - March 2009
- ✓ **"Reduce the Plastic"** - project to bring awareness of the harmful effects of plastic bags; handout and slide show; article in local papers; distributed re-usable shopping bags to congregation - November 2008
- ✓ **"Strike Out Styrofoam"** - project to promote the elimination of Styrofoam serving products - November 2007
- ✓ **Collected ink cartridges, cell phones, household batteries, crayons, Altoid boxes** - all taken to businesses for recycling - 2007

- ✓ **Paper recycling bins** in parking lot; over 80 tons collected; started 2008; currently collection is responsibility of the company