

Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit Climate Team

Who We Are

Mission

From the perspective of a spiritual community, we recognize the changes society and Earth are undergoing due to climate collapse. We are committed to supporting one another through these changes by these actions:

- learning and acting on our personal sustainability,
- identifying effective ways to multiply our efforts to those outside our church community; and
- growing our resilience and the strength of our own spiritual foundation.

Background

Climate Change/Collapse is more than an environmental crisis. It's also about economics, ecology, and equity among Earth's tenants, including plants, animals, and humans. The CHS Climate Team has been busy developing its projects in order to follow both our callings: our spiritual calling and our calling to be stewards of the Earth. We hope more parishioners will join us in celebrating our resilience and love as a Christian community.

The Question

What should be our ethical response to what we know about Climate Collapse – personally and as part of our faith community? We reflect at our meetings on our spiritual connection to God's creation along with our roles, both individual and collective, as Earth's stewards.

Our Projects

Solar Electric Power for our Church

Status: In the fall of 2012 our Vestry approved the Climate Team's proposal for a roof-mounted 5kW photovoltaic system. We will begin fundraising in Spring 2013 and contract for the system when we reach the needed funds.

Why: To demonstrate this spiritual community's earth-stewardship response to the climate crisis while offsetting a substantial percentage of our electricity costs.

Cost/Funding/Revenue: The present estimated cost range for the system is \$15,000 to \$17,500. Funding will be sought via designated contributions by parishioners especially dedicated to the concept.

Since NC does not sanction “net metering,” all power generated will be sold to French Broad Electric Membership Corporation at about \$.04 per kWh, with NC Green Power adding Renewable Energy Credits (“RECs”) of \$.08 per kWh. As the system should generate about 7200 kWh annually, the income will be about \$864.

Technical: Approximately 20 photovoltaic panels will be mounted on the south-facing roof over the offices and classrooms. The annual 7200 kWh expected to be produced represents approximately 40% of the church's usage.

Questions? Call (828-689-2853) or email Dick Jordan (richandron@frontier.com)

Church Community Garden

People interested in creating a church garden met early in the spring of 2012 and made plans for the first Holy Spirit Garden. A garden plot was plowed near the Bone Camp Road entrance to the church driveway. Four teams of four people helped plant and maintain the garden throughout the summer. More than a dozen varieties of vegetables were planted, producing a bountiful crop throughout the summer and on into the fall. Church members enjoyed the harvest along with people at Neighbors-in-Need. Fresh produce was delivered to NIN each Tuesday.

The Clothesline Challenge

Avoiding the use of a clothes dryer is part of our effort to use less energy, focusing on the amount of electricity (usually generated by the burning of coal) that we consume in our homes. Depending upon your family and your lifestyle, your clothes dryer accounts for 10% - 30% of your monthly home energy use. The Climate Team, as a group, commits to primarily use clotheslines and indoor drying racks. Our goal for 2013 is to achieve a higher percentage of clothesline participation within our CHS family.

Resource: Project Laundry List is a non-profit with a national focus begun in 1995.
www.laundrylist.org

Advocacy and Collaboration with Other Faith Communities

Many of us on the Climate Team are focusing on public policy issues that very much affect our nation's ability to address climate change. We have not yet settled on a particular advocacy effort but are particularly interested in collaborating with the following efforts and organizations:

- The **Beyond Coal Campaign** of the Sierra Club includes an effort to convince Duke/Progress energy to stop burning coal at its local Skyland plant.
Resource: www.sierraclub.org/coal/about-the-campaign
- We are monitoring the **Tar Sands/XL Pipeline** issue. This involves the destructive process of extracting oil from Canadian tar sands and the construction of a massive pipeline to transport it from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. We oppose the extraction of this oil because this process not only contributes to global warming but also distracts our

nation from focusing on developing renewable energy. Resources: www.350.org and the book, *Earth* by Bill McKibben.

- Holy Spirit is a member of WNC Green Congregations, which brings together many different faith communities concerned about climate change, including a common faith response and also advocacy. The effort is supported by NC Interfaith Power & Light and the WNC Alliance. Resources: www.ncipl.org and www.wnca.org

Climate Collapse Awareness Brochure

An educational brochure describes the effects of Climate Collapse, what is contributing to this global environmental crisis, and what we may do immediately on an individual basis to lessen the impact. (Downloadable PDF available for viewing or to print on your personal printer. A high quality printed version of this brochure is available in the lobby of the church.)

Contact Us:

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