



Q: Are churches in mid-Michigan using up all the sun's energy?

A: Of course not :) But there *are* mid-Michigan churches that are harnessing the sun's power for good!

In honor of Earth Day, we bring you: 1. the good news about two solar projects in the Lansing area and 2. a new solar resource for congregations.

In the fall, [Edgewood United Church](#) became the first congregation in the area to install a solar photovoltaic system. Just a couple of weeks ago, the church held a dedication ceremony and had an official ribbon cutting ([see the local news coverage here](#)). The Edgewood congregation is proud to be cutting their use of fossil fuel-based energy by about 1/3!



And this weekend, not far away, Haslett Community Church is unveiling its new array, the [Joyce Bartels Memorial Solar project](#). Haslett's green team hopes the solar energy they generate will be enough to offset the refrigeration energy used to by their community food pantry, which serves upwards of 100 households every month.



And guess what? There's still plenty more solar energy to go around.

If your congregation is interested in exploring solar energy, check out our new resource, [Going Solar: A Guidebook for Houses of Worship](#).

Happy Earth Day!

Yours,



Leah

Leah Wiste

Director of Outreach & Advocacy



Imagine a food pantry full of activity-- volunteers sorting canned goods and produce, arranging the boxes of pasta and bags rice for display, and greeting members of the community who have come to get groceries for the week.

Now imagine someone pitching *all of this food in the trash*. Shockingly wasteful, right?

Though less visible, the unwise use of energy is similarly wasteful-- and unnecessary. You know those old lightbulbs you'll replace when they burn out? Their total lifetime cost is many times higher than LEDs, which we can help you get for free.

Your congregation could continue to use energy inefficiently... but wouldn't you rather "be a church, serving out in the world"? The choice is yours.

Sign up for Light the Way and start saving if your congregation:

- is located in the Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Grand Rapids, Jackson, Flint or Saginaw areas
- is a Consumers customer
- hasn't participated in the program before

Or reach Jennifer at projectmanager@miipl.org or 248-463-8811. *Pssst:* pass it on!

Sign up online



Earth Day Workshop
Saturday
April 22, 2017
10 AM-12:30 PM

Location: Ecumenical Theological Seminary
 2930 Woodward Avenue, Detroit 48201









EMEAC

Racism, Climate Change, Detroit and You: Earth Apocalypse in the Age of Trump

Panel Environmental Leaders:
 Shane Bernardo, **Earthworks Urban Farm**
 Kido Pielack, **Keep Growing Detroit**
 Monica Lewis-Patrick, **We the People of Detroit**
 Michael Garfield, **Ecology Center Ann Arbor**
 Will Copeland, **East Michigan Environmental Action Council**
 Dr. Ventra Asana, **WUE/Workshop in Urban Ecology**

Attendees will be introduced to organizations working on issues of environmental justice and wellbeing in the metro Detroit area. ETS students are able to use this workshop towards their graduation requirement, normal workshop fees apply.

This forum is free and open to the public, registration is **encouraged**.

RSVP: <http://bit.ly/ETS2017EarthDay>

More information is available at www.etsseminary.edu or 313.831.8500.
 Light refreshments will be served.

ETS is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, and the following degree programs are approved: MDiv, MA, MA in Pastoral Ministry, DMin.

In other news:



It's Faith Climate Action Week! This is an annual national Interfaith Power & Light initiative that provides you with **free resources to Act On Climate, as we approach Earth Day and beyond.** The FCAW kit includes: (100) Postcards to senators, Organizer's Instructions, Global Warming Fact Sheet, Prayer Flags Activity, Photo and Social Media Activity, Action fact sheet.

Green Living Science, a Detroit nonprofit, can help your metro Detroit congregation or business start recycling! They'll provide an on-site assessment and connect you with a recycling vendor, a dumpster, and pick-up service for a single stream recycling program. Contact info@greenlivingscience.org or (313) 871-4000, ext. 3, for more.



Great Lakes Bioneers Detroit doesn't just hold a fabulous annual conference. They also host events to help keep participants connected throughout the year, including a [monthly film + discussion series on the 4th Monday of the month from 6:30-8:30](#) at the MSU Detroit Center. The event is free and free parking is available at the MSU lot on Simpson and Woodward.



Interfaith Action for Human Rights is continuing its Banner Project-- an initiative meant to foster solidarity with Muslims and to enable non-Muslim congregations to take a stand against Islamophobia. [Banners are available for sale here.](#)



Building Operator Certification (BOC) Training is coming to Flint in June. Maximize your facility's energy efficiency potential and enhance your job skills by earning this nationally-recognized credential. [View the BOC website](#) for more information.

Don't forget to check out our new initiative!

Build your business's Triple Bottom Lines with [MIGreenLine](#), your direct line to energy solutions.



Upcoming events:

4/19/17: Sierra Club Southwest Michigan Group, [Palisades Shutdown Campaign Coalition Meeting](#), First Congregational Church of Kalamazoo, 7-8:30 pm.

4/22/17: [March for Science](#), in Washington, DC and at [a satellite location near you](#): Alpena, Ann Arbor, Big Rapids, Cheboygan, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Houghton, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Marquette, Midland, Petoskey, Sault Ste. Marie, and Ypsilanti!

4/22/17: [Workshop, "Racism, Climate Change, Detroit and You,"](#) at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary Detroit, 10 am-12:30 pm. (Please register for free in advance.)

4/22/17: Panel Discussion, "Water for Profit or People?" at [Swords into Plowshares Peace Center & Gallery](#), Detroit, 11 am-12:30 pm.

4/24/17: [Great Lakes Bioneers Detroit's monthly film screening](#) and discussion, *The Wish: A Story of Hope, Faith and Generosity*, at the MSU Detroit Center, 6:30-8:30pm.

4/29/17: [People's Climate March](#), Washington, DC. [Find sister marches here.](#)

5/22/17: [Great Lakes Bioneers Detroit's monthly film screening and discussion, hosted by Michigan IPL, *Catching the Sun*, at the MSU Detroit Center, 6:30-8:30pm.](#)



Resources

Check out our free resources-- from energy efficiency manuals to study guides on the spiritual foundations of earth care.

[Resources >>](#)

Love Our Work?

Your support enables us to help faith communities become more sustainable through action, education, and advocacy.

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Become an Advocate

We have a moral responsibility to protect the Earth and love our neighbors. Help us make systemic change!

[Advocate >>](#)

Connect with Us



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