



Green Team Spotlight:

Haslett Community Church Saves Energy, Feeds the Community

There's a saying in the penny-pinching world of non-profit organizations: "no money, no mission." We like to think of this in reverse: *more money = more mission!*

Finding extra money in your budget by spending less on utility bills is one important— and often easier than you'd think— way to put more resources into the things that really matter.



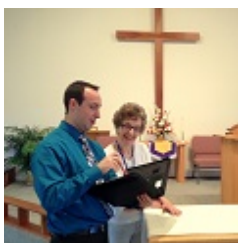
Rich Baumgartner, Haslett CC Green Team member, in the Food Pantry.

According to Dave Arnosti, who has been part of [Haslett Community Church](#) for 20 years and is also a member of its Green Team, conserving resources is just one of the congregation's habits. For some, it's a value that lingers from growing up during the Depression. For many, the impulse comes from a keen awareness of the effects of unchecked consumption on our earth and a sense of duty to live more sustainably.

Conserving energy is, for Haslett Community, a worthwhile end in its own right. But the monetary savings also help the church fulfill its mission: "to joyfully and prayerfully provide a warm welcome to all." The church's Food Pantry, which was started in the 80s, extends this warmth and hospitality to the community by providing food and other necessities to 80-100 households a month—a service for which demand has markedly increased since 2008. The Pantry also relies on the commitment and generosity of 2-3 dozen volunteers to keep it running.

As an exciting next step, Rich Baumgartner shared that the Green Team is investigating the feasibility of solar panels for the church. The Team is enthusiastic about the project and interested in seeing whether a solar array might be able to offset the energy use of all of the Pantry's freezers and refrigerators (the most electricity-intensive appliances to operate). How's that for putting energy savings right back into mission?

Solar panels would be a shining, public example of Haslett Community Church's commitment to Earth stewardship. And they would be another, unique way to get food from the sun!



Congregations who care for Creation spend less \$\$ on utilities and more \$\$ on mission. Is your house of worship interested in saving money? Sign up now for a [FREE energy analysis and efficiency upgrades](#). We estimate that 2015 participants saved an average of \$835 last year on their energy bills! Call 248-463-8811 or e-mail projectmanager@miipl.org.



Advocacy update! This week, energy policy discussions heated up again in the state Senate. Energy & Technology committee Chair Mike Nofs released version 6 of [SB437](#), and the question of electrical choice remains a sticking point. There is hope for a modest increase to the Renewable Portfolio Standard from 10% to 15%. The [legislation](#) was not put to a vote and will be taken up again in October, after recess.



[The Christian Reformed Church's U of M Campus Chapel goes solar.](#) The church estimates that its new, 44-panel array will generate enough energy to meet 85% of its electricity needs. The CRC in North America's Office of Social Justice has a strong focus on caring for Creation and is currently engaging congregations on climate change through its [Climate Witness Project](#).



["We Stand With Our Muslim Neighbors."](#) In response to rising anti-Muslim bigotry, Interfaith Action for Human Rights has created the Banner Project-- an initiative meant to foster solidarity with Muslims and to enable non-Muslim congregations to take a stand against Islamophobia.



[UUs Stand in Solidarity with Black Lives Matter.](#) Unitarian Universalist congregations are showing their support for the dignity of black lives by displaying #BlackLivesMatter banners, engaging with their communities on the issue, holding anti-racism workshops, and more. See how your congregation (UU or not!) can get involved [here](#).

Upcoming events:

[Solar Q&A at Homeland Solar, Ann Arbor - Saturday, 9/24](#)

[Online EcoSattva Training - begins Sunday, 10/16](#)

[Great Lakes Bioneers Detroit Conference - 10/28-30](#)



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