

THE PARIS PLEDGE:

Helping Congregations to Cut Carbon Pollution and Save \$

The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris agreed *“to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels.”* To achieve these goals, the UN Conference proposed the following goals for carbon dioxide emissions: *1) Reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2030 and 2) Reach a state of net zero carbon emissions by the year 2050.* These carbon emission goals are now commonly referred to as the “Paris Pledge” and have been adopted as goals by many businesses and organizations around the world, including many churches and other non-profit organizations.



In March 2016, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF) voted as a congregation to make a commitment to the Paris Pledge: we would cut our campus’s carbon dioxide emissions by 50% by 2030, and achieve net zero carbon dioxide emissions for UUCF by the year 2050.

Achieving this objective would require:

- evaluation of our current facilities, systems, and processes
- identification of possible changes to reduce our energy use (objectives, steps)
- evaluation of costs (cost/benefit, pricing)
- budgeting (grant opportunities)
- implementation (contractors, resources)
- tracking of results

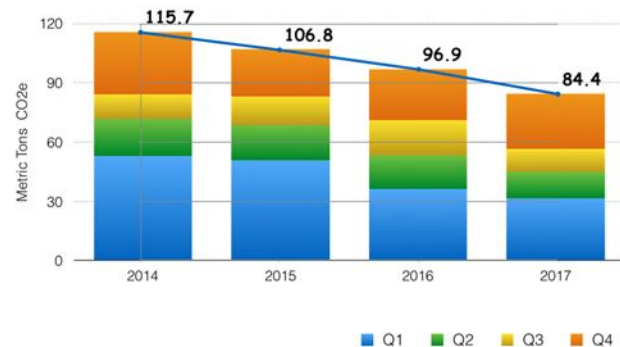


UUCF also aims to motivate our members to commit to similar goals at the individual or family level. Steps for this component include communication to members about our congregational efforts and activities to engage members in considering how to reduce their own CO2 output.



Following a thorough energy audit, the congregation invested in replacing all lighting fixtures with LEDs and has just completed the replacement of 55 year old, single pane windows in the Administration and Program building. The result has been improvements in the comfort of staff (note the space heaters prior to the window replacements) and significant reductions in our electricity usage. We chart GHG emissions each quarter.

UUCF Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions



UUCF and the Faith Alliance for Climate Solution has prepared a Paris Pledge Toolkit to help other congregations take the pledge.

<https://uucf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/PP-Kit-for-Congregations-v2.1.pdf>

For more information:

<https://uucf.org/social-justice/social-action-groups/paris-pledge-initiative/>

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