

South Congregational Church in Amherst Path to Net Zero Energy Use



In 2006 a goal of Net Zero Energy Use was established by the Trustees.

We want to be good stewards of:

- The planet
- The environment
- Our community
- Our children's future
- Our church's finances
- Our church building

We also want to lead by example.

We have accomplished this goal through:

- A major initiative started in 2006 and finished in 2011
 - New windows in the old section of the church
 - Adding insulation to the walls and attic
 - New light fixtures
- A major project started in 2011 and finished in 2013
 - Heat Pumps
 - Solar Panels
 - Heat Pump Water Heaters
- Several smaller initiatives between 2007 and 2013
 - Weather stripping
 - Insulation
 - Efficient light bulbs
 - New Parsonage windows

Through conservation and efficiency measures, we reduced our building's (church building and parsonage) total energy use by 70% and our carbon footprint and other pollution by 80%. Installation of a solar array was the last step, so we not generate more energy than we use. We also cut oil use by 3500 gallons – this saves \$17k a year with less than a 15 year payback.

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