

Interfaith Power and Light, a faith-based environmental organization with chapters in 40 states, took a scroll to the UN Paris Climate Talks in December 2015 that bears the names of congregations –**including ours**– that [pledged to reduce their carbon footprint](#) by 50% by 2030 and set a goal to reduce by 100% (i.e. to be carbon neutral) by 2050. Thousands of congregations signed [IPL's Paris Pledge](#).



**Interfaith Power & Light**

A RELIGIOUS RESPONSE TO GLOBAL WARMING

## WHY WE TOOK THE PLEDGE



Members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington Green Sanctuary Task Force believe that fighting to slow –and preparing to deal with– global warming is our greatest generational challenge, and that our congregation should lead by example.

## BECOMING CARBON NEUTRAL

Through the energy conservation, efficiency upgrades and renewable energy, we have met several major milestones:

- ☐ In 2007 we became a Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) certified *Green Sanctuary* congregation;
- ☐ In 2014, with the installation of 24 KW of solar panels, which offset almost 60% of our electricity, we became one of the first 20 IPL *Certified Cool Congregations* at the 50% level, having already reduced our carbon footprint by 50%;
- ☐ In 2017, with an outpouring of support and donations, we added another 16.2 KW of solar panels. Energy we don't use on site goes to the nearby electric grid for our neighbors and shows as a credit on our electric bills;
- ☐ Since 2015 our building has earned Energy Star® [certification for buildings of worship](#) in the mid- to high-90<sup>th</sup> percentile;
- ☐ In 2022 we an ASHRAE Level 2 energy audit to help us prioritize future energy saving actions.

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