

Solar Panels up and running at St Michael's and All Angel's, Fort Bragg

April marks a monthlong celebration of Mother Earth, when we focus on the blessings of our creation and our calling to be good stewards of our planet.

Numerous congregations within our diocese are actively engaged in the initiative to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. These faith communities have already achieved noteworthy advancements in enhancing energy efficiency and diminishing their environmental impact. Beyond these efforts, many churches are discovering innovative and impactful methods to promote sustainability. We celebrate these meaningful contributions as we remain dedicated to our shared responsibility as stewards of God's Creation.

It is a privilege to provide these latest reports, which showcase the ongoing advancements our diocesan churches are achieving as they strive for carbon neutrality.

- St Michael's and All Angel's, Fort Bragg

Solar panels were installed during Holy Week and turned on April 7. "We're up & running with the sun!" - Heather Anderson and Rick Bondor

- Emmanuel, Grass Valley

In the last 6 months we have completely replaced all lighting in our parish hall (Buck Hall) with LED lighting. The cost was close to $1,500. - Spence Strickley

- Christ, Eureka

Progress is continuing on the church's installation of their solar system with battery storage. Permitting is underway; re-roofing is to begin in May; Solar/Battery installation is slated for July and the system is slated to be on-line in late summer or early autumn. - Steve Preston

- Grace, Fairfield

The church is considering solar with batteries and in the process of getting quotes. - Larry Lindsay

- St Lukes, Auburn

The contract is signed for the installation of solar panels with the aim of creating an "energy sovereign church". - Rev Brian Rebholtz and Craig Collom

- St Augustine of Canterbury, Rocklin

St. Augustine made the decision to retrofit our parking lot and exterior patio lights with LED fixtures. It is a major investment but we are committed to improving our energy efficiency and impact. The church plans to apply for a grant to help offset the cost of the installation. - Cindy Harton

- Incarnation, Santa Rosa

The church is developing plans to renovate their social hall. The renovation will include replacing the gas fired heating system with heat pumps, replacing the large gas commercial range with an induction range, energy efficiency improvements to lighting and the building envelope. - Rev Stephen Shaver

- St Martin, Davis

The church was recently surveyed by Colby May, our energy efficiency expert. Colby's report includes recommendations to further reduce the carbon footprint of the church campus, which is already very energy efficient. - Rev Pamela Dolan