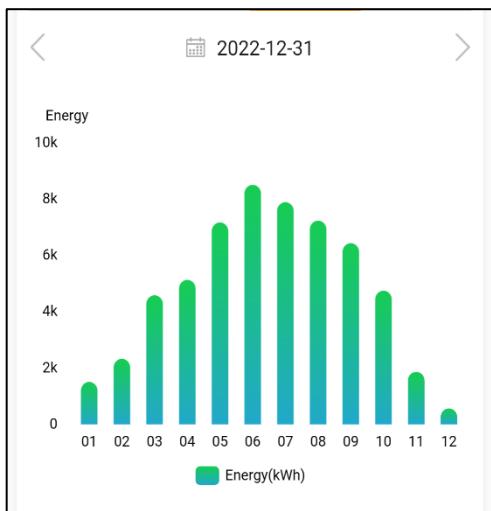


Happy Earth Day and 3rd year Anniversary of Judson's Solar System

Judson's roof top solar system (pictured below) will be 3 years old next week! It is a wonderful coincidence that Judson gets to celebrate Earth Day (April 22nd) and the anniversary of the church's solar system (April 29th) on the same Sunday. If you are new to Judson (or just forgot about it), right above your heads this morning there are solar collectors generating electricity for the church and the community.



The Judson Solar Energy System is a 56 kilowatt unit that consists of 95 panels located on the flat roof of our preschool/education building and 45 panels on the south facing roof of our sanctuary (140 panels total). The system was designed and installed by *Sundial Energy* with coordination assistance from Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MNIPL). Design work began in the fall of 2019 with installation and all electrical hookups completed by the spring of 2021. Special leadership was provided by Larry Jacobson, Bob Clague and Brad Joern assisted by many at Sundial and MNIPL.



Our 140-panel solar array produces electricity year around although most of it is collected in the summer months as seen in the adjacent figure showing the monthly kWh generated during the 2022 calendar year. The system will have produced about 175,500 kWh of electrical energy over the past 3 years! How much was generated in each of the three years is listed in the table below. The dip in electricity produced during the 2nd year of operations, is probably due to the large snowfall we received during the winter of 2022-23. You can see below the snow covered and snow free flat roof panels photos taken in February & April of 2022 respectively.

Electricity Generated – 1 st Year	Electricity Generated – 2 nd Year	Estimated Electricity Generated -3 rd Year
62,000 kWh	53,500 kWh	60,000 kWh



The church has a “net metering” use agreement with Xcel Energy, which means when Judson cannot use the electricity we are generating, it will go back on the grid for use by others in the neighborhood. As a result of this agreement, Judson receives about \$2,000 each year in credits on our electric bill. Judson uses about 160,000 kWh of electricity annually, so we produce about 35 to 40% of our usage. More importantly, our solar system has saved 175 Tons of CO2 emissions (equivalent to 8,600 trees) over the past 3 years. That is something that the Judson community should feel proud of.



Adding solar collectors to the church was a first step in reducing our carbon footprint. The Judson community continues to look for ways to address our climate and environmental challenges. Judson is one of 28 faith communities in Minnesota that are designated as “Climate Justice Congregations” by the Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MNIPL) non-profit. Together with them and other partners, the Judson Environment and Climate Justice Group meets monthly to provide information and sponsors activities for the greater Judson community. To join us, contact Larry Jacobson or Sarah Baker (co-chairs) or the church office.