

UUCSC Becomes More Energy Efficient

Moving from Oil to Natural Gas

The Facilities Committee has been working hard on a project to convert our boilers from oil to natural gas. In September, the Congregation approved a budget including \$13,800 to engage Chaves Plumbing to perform the conversion. Natalie signed the contract for UUCSC and the equipment has been ordered. National Grid has completed the work necessary to start the conversion. Joe Chaves expects to complete the conversion during the early part of November.

Moving to Improve Lighting and Save the Environment

After RISE Engineering completed a comprehensive audit of the lighting throughout our building, the Facilities Committee received a proposal to upgrade our entire system to achieve better illumination and greater energy efficiency. RISE estimates that with this proposed upgrade we will reduce our energy consumption by 5116 kilo watt hours per year, reduce our greenhouse gases (Co2) by 5,628 pounds and save \$736 in electricity costs each year, once we return to normal functioning. Importantly, this proposal also includes a cash incentive from National Grid to pay approximately 2/3 of the total cost of \$8,591. We are in the final stages of reviewing the details of the proposal.

-- Jean Burke, Facilities Committee