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At the bottom of each even-numbered page, there is a clickable link to the Table of Contents. The sections listed in the Table of Contents are also clickable links that will take you directly to sections of the plan.

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INTRODUCTION

This Sustainability Master Plan is a culmination of collaborative efforts from First United Methodist Church (FUMC) of Omaha members, groups, staff and clergy to cultivate a vision and path towards a more sustainable and regenerative congregation. Months of workshops, conversations with members, staff, and clergy, data collection and analysis, goal-setting, and strategy identification have resulted in this plan that shines a light on FUMC's previous and current sustainability achievements and points FUMC towards a brighter vision of the future.

First United Methodist Church of Omaha was founded in 1855. Currently, FUMC is located on about 12 acres of land, on the corner of Cass and 69th Streets. The church property includes a main building with a sanctuary, chapel, large group and reception area, and multiple meeting rooms. FUMC's grounds are also home to a small pollinator garden, a gazebo, and a lawn labyrinth. These spaces allow FUMC to carry out its mission, serve its members, and host groups from the greater Omaha community.

inclusive community, inspired to grow with and in God." FUMC brings this mission to life by welcoming people from all walks of life into the FUMC community. All people are welcome to grow with and in God through Sunday services, daily reflections, spiritual and social groups. FUMC also has a strong culture of advocacy and supports many action teams that focus on issues including immigration ministry, racial justice, food security, dignity of housing, and caring for the environment.

Caring for the environment and all of creation is integral to the identity of all Christians. For the purposes of this plan, creation care will be presented as the concept of sustainability. Sustainability is defined as a way to "meet the needs and aspirations of the present without compromising the ability to meet those of the future."[1]

The United Methodist Church's General Board of Church and Society states, "As we continue to call for bold leadership and advocate for policies rooted in justice and sustainability, we understand that God is calling each of us to respond and that as a denomination we cannot hope to transform the world until we change our way of being in it" (Book of Resolutions, 1035). Building on FUMC's successes of co-creating a more sustainable church community, this plan seeks to further FUMC's new ways of being that reduce the harmful environmental, social, and financial impacts of resource use and that increase the positive, generous benefits of giving back to the earth and to each other.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

STRENGTHS, SUCCESSES, AND KEY FINDINGS

First United Methodist Church of Omaha (FUMC) has implemented practices and programs that have helped FUMC reduce its environmental impact and increase its engagement efforts around sustainability and caring for creation. As highlighted in the Sustainability Engagement Survey, FUMC's greatest sustainability strengths are its material and waste management and the community's powerful belief that sustainability is both important and integrally connected with FUMC's mission.

Actions taken by individuals, groups, and leadership at FUMC have provided the church with a solid foundation for greater and deeper sustainability efforts. While the majority of this Sustainability Master Plan is forward and future-looking, this section allows us to first pause, celebrate, and build upon the good work that has happened and that will propel FUMC on its continued journey in achieving its 2030 goals.

1. ENERGY

LED upgrades. Out of over 50 interior lighting systems, over half have been upgraded to LEDs. All classrooms have LED lighting systems. Out of 12 parking lot lights, eight have been upgraded to LEDs.

Occupancy sensors. All classrooms, the front office hallway, and the supply/sound closet in The Commons are equipped with occupancy sensors that turn on and off based on
movement. Lights in The Commons are also dimmable and programmable.

Strategic entrances. Entrances directly into The Commons were recently restricted to emergency-only exits. Keeping these doors closed keeps conditioned air from escaping, reducing heating and cooling needs throughout the year.

Air handling units (AHUs). FUMC's AHU #11 is a newer, more efficient model installed approximately five years ago and services the kitchen and The Commons.

Energy Star appliances. FUMC has some Energy Star appliances, including the heating cabinets in the kitchen.

2. WATER

Efficient fixtures. FUMC has water-saving fixtures such as faucet aerators and low-flow toilets in the first floor restrooms.

Stewardship. A theoretical water budget, using only the water that falls on a property in a typical year, indicates that FUMC is a careful steward of water usage. FUMC's water budget (calculated based on FUMC's property size and the average annual amount of rain in Omaha) is almost 10 million gallons of water. FUMC uses less than 2% of that water budget, consuming on average only 200,000 gallons/year.

3. MATERIALS MANAGEMENT & WASTE

Source reduction. With the help of the Eco Team, FUMC has been able to reduce its waste by opting for reusable items such as dishes and drinkware in the kitchen for community meals rather than single-use items and Styrofoam.

Composting. FUMC has benefited from responsible disposal of food waste through a composting program led by the Eco Team. Since the program began about five years ago, community members have learned about their consumption habits and how to better
manage their waste at home and at FUMC.

Recycling. Paper, plastic, aluminium, glass, cardboard, and scrap metal are regularly recycled at FUMC and are therefore kept from going to the landfill. Occasional special collection events for materials such as Styrofoam and electronics also occur.

4. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Culture of carpooling. FUMC's mode split is relatively high compared to other institutions in Omaha. Nearly 43% of FUMC community members travel to the church in ways other than driving alone in a car. This high percentage is due to a large number of people who carpool, likely with family members, to Sunday services together.

Proximity. A plurality of respondents to the Sustainability Engagement Survey shared that they live 5 miles or less from FUMC, which points to an opportunity for increasing active modes.

5. ENGAGEMENT

Sustainability is important to FUMC. A total of 116 members, staff, and clergy participated in a Sustainability Engagement Survey during March 2020. Results from the survey show that 96% of respondents believe it is important for FUMC to take active steps to be more sustainable. Sustainability is important to FUMC, according to respondents, because of:

- **Environment -** Sustainability lessens FUMC's environmental impact, conserves resources, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions
- **Responsibility -** Because it's the right thing to do
- **Future generations -** Sustainability helps to ensure that future generations can fully meet their needs
- **Mission -** Sustainability aligns with and supports FUMC's mission

Sustainability & mission. From that same survey, 90% of respondents believe sustainability aligns with FUMC's mission.

Diversity & inclusion. Typically, in the Sustainability Engagement Survey, respondents are most aware of and knowledgeable about efforts related to waste management, e.g. recycling and composting. However, according to the survey results, FUMC's respondents reported high levels of awareness about FUMC's efforts to promote diversity and inclusion, as well as high levels of knowing how to promote diversity and inclusivity themselves.

PROCESS

First United Methodist Church of Omaha began its formal and inclusive Sustainability Master Plan process in February 2020 and the final plan was delivered in November 2020. The process is equally important to the outcome to ensure a Sustainability Master Plan both integrates and aligns sustainability across the church. The inclusive and engaging process outlined below offered all members of the church several opportunities to contribute and provide feedback throughout the process which has led to this plan which will propel FUMC to achieving its 2030 sustainability goals. Key milestones in the two-phase process are outlined below:

PHASE 1: DISCOVERY

PHASE 2: DREAM & DESIGN

PLAN STRUCTURE

All previous sections of this document are meant to provide context for what sustainability efforts at FUMC have looked like in the past and how FUMC's Sustainability Master Plan came to be. The rest of this Sustainability Master Plan will focus on FUMC's sustainability vision, 2030 sustainability goals, and recommended strategies.

Vision, goals, and strategies are based on the language and planning areas agreed upon by the Process Team, vetted and refined by Verdis Group, and reviewed by the FUMC community. The vision statement is based on the inspirational work of the Process Team and FUMC as a whole. Goals were created directly by and with input from Verdis Group. Strategies were reviewed and prioritized by Process Team members.

7 Plan Structure

Chapters following the Executive Summary focus on a more detailed description of each goal. Strategies for each goal are also included in each goal chapter. Timelines assigned to each strategy follow the structure below:

1. SHORT-TERM:

now to one year after the publication of the Sustainability Master Plan

2. MEDIUM-TERM:

one to three years after the publication of the Sustainability Master Plan

3. LONG-TERM:

three years after the publication of the Sustainability Master Plan

A list of 10 priority actions are included in the Recommended Next Steps of the Executive Summary. These actions were selected by Verdis Group for priority implementation based on environmental impact, social justice impact, ease of implementation, and estimated cost.

Some strategies are already in place and are being implemented by FUMC members, staff and clergy. In these cases, strategies will lead with "continue" to acknowledge the important work already being done for and with FUMC.

SUSTAINABILITY VISION

"In keeping with our mission of growing with and in God and being a welcoming and inclusive community, First United Methodist Church is dedicated to the cultivation of a more regenerative and resilient world. We strive to make decisions and engage in practices that bring about positive ecological impacts. We are committed to building inclusive, restorative relationships with each other, our community, the natural world and God."

GOALS

Five goals guide FUMC's quantifiable progress towards becoming a more sustainable community over the next 10 years. Because of its significance with global climate science, the year 2030 was chosen as a goal year. FUMC's five goals are challenging, yet achievable. As FUMC advances its sustainability efforts, new goals may need to be set. Baselines for each goal are provided so progress towards the goals can be measured over time.

ENERGY & EMISSIONS

2030 Goal: 50% reduction

2017-2019 (Average) Baseline: 531 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO2e)

WATER

2030 Goal: Maintain baseline water usage

2017-2019 (Average) Baseline: 199,716 gallons/year

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT & WASTE

2030 Goal: 80% of materials are diverted from the landfill

2019 Baseline: 17% of materials are diverted from the landfill

ENGAGEMENT

2030 Goal: 75 Sustainability Engagement Score

2020 Baseline: 58 Sustainability Engagement Score

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

2030 Goal: 50% of the FUMC community commutes to FUMC in ways other than driving alone in a car

2020 Baseline: 43% of the FUMC community commutes to FUMC in ways other than driving alone in a car

RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

A summary of all short-term (now to one year after the publication of the Sustainability Master Plan) strategies is provided in Appendix A. Additionally, a tracking document and action planning template has been provided via Google Sheets to FUMC for continued progress and accountability.

1. Establish a governance structure of responsible parties who will ensure implementation of these recommended next steps and the strategies for each goal.

2. Determine procedures for collecting, tracking, and measuring progress over time for all five goals in this Sustainability Master Plan. Concurrently, develop communication strategies for sharing updates about sustainability projects and progress towards goals.

3. Create plans for implementing the Energy & Emissions strategies listed here:

- Convert all remaining non-LED lights to LED based on a prioritized list of remaining spaces from the Building Manager.

- Convert all remaining non-occupancy sensors lighting to occupancy sensors based on a prioritized list of remaining spaces from the Building Manager.

- Install automated building management system that allows automatic temperature set points and remote access. Computerized building management systems allow for greater energy efficiency potential as well as a human benefit for building managers by allowing remote access.

- Determine how to measure the feasibility of onsite renewable energy, battery storage, and solar water-heating (specifically on the northeast side of the main building for the kitchen). Begin conversations with relevant engineers, renewable technology providers, and OPPD to examine what possibilities exist. Move forward with a project once the cost/benefit analysis reveals a positive forecast.

4. Create plans for implementing the Water strategies listed here:

- Complete installation of faucet aerators.

- Complete installation of low-flow toilets.

5. Develop a fundraising strategy to complete these priority actions, which may include the establishment of a revolving green fund.

ENERGY & EMISSIONS

2030 Goal: 50% reduction

2017-2019 (Average) Baseline: 531 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO2e)

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are the primary driver of global climate change. Climate change presents significant threats to plant, animal, and human life. The world's poorest and

most vulnerable people are the ones least responsible for climate change, however they are the ones who are and will suffer the most.[2] Greenhouse gas emissions come from the combustion of fossil fuels (largely from coal and natural gas) that are used for lighting, heating and cooling of our buildings. To keep local and global temperatures from rising to catastrophic levels due to increased greenhouse gas emissions, we must reexamine and reimagine our energy use and sources.

From 2017 to 2019, FUMC emitted an average of 531 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO2e). FUMC's average annual emissions are approximately equivalent to the energy used by 61 homes in a year, or the amount of carbon sequestered by 693 acres of U.S. forest in a year.[3] MtCO2e is an equivalency that allows for methane and nitrous oxide to be included in the calculations along with carbon dioxide. These three gases account for the majority of emissions for most organizations. FUMC's GHG emissions come from two main sources: purchased electricity (54%) and natural gas (43%).

In 2013, FUMC worked with Morrissey Engineering to analyze the church's energy consumption. FUMC consumed 496,320 kWh of electricity in 2013. Because of the

energy

13 Energy & Emissions

upgrades FUMC has implemented, the church is using 13,167 kWh less electricity per year (on average from 2017-2019). In total, FUMC has saved 39,501 kWh since 2013, which correlates to saving just over $1,000 per year. This savings equates to the same electricity used by 5 homes in a year, or the amount of carbon sequestered by 12 acres of U.S. forest in a year.

Climate change is the single greatest threat to all of creation. How we respond to this planetary emergency over the next decade will determine how severe local and global impacts will be. By taking active and responsible steps to reduce its emissions, FUMC serves not only as a local leader in Omaha, but also as a global steward of creation and guardian of wellbeing. Strategies for reducing GHG emissions follow.

1. SHORT-TERM STRATEGIES (now - 1yr)

1. Continue to offer virtual worship services for members (crossover with Active Transportation).

2. Continue to offer remote working opportunities for staff and clergy (crossover with Active Transportation).

3. Continue to track monthly electricity and natural gas usage to measure GHG emissions over

4. Formalize standard heating and cooling temperature set points across all spaces. Special considerations must be made for the sanctuary space to keep the organ working and in great condition.

5. Reduce building energy use through behavioral changes, such as normalizing turning off non emergency lights when they are not in use, keeping blinds closed on hot and sunny days, unplugging non-essential equipment when not in use, taking the stairs instead of the elevator if/when able (crossover with Engagement).

6. Identify sections of the main building that are not in use during certain times of the day or year. Develop and implement a policy for reduced heating/cooling these buildings and spaces when they are not in use. Document practices already in place by the current Building Manager and formalize these practices as

standard operating procedures.

7. Plant more trees throughout the property to sequester carbon and consider planting trees on the west side of the property to shade the building in the summer and reduce cooling needs. Consult with resources from the Nebraska Forest Service for species to select and to avoid. Increased water usage may result from initial planting and care. Therefore, a great time to start planting is now, while the building is closed and water usage is low (crossover with Water).

2. MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGIES (1yr - 3yrs)

8. Upgrade all remaining non-LED lights to LED. Confirm and prioritize the list of remaining fixtures to be converted with the Building Manager. Examples of areas in need of LED upgrades are provided below.

- Front office hallway (priority space)
- Clergy offices (priority space)
- 2nd floor hallway of Ed Wing
- Membership room
- Youth Room
- Parlor

9. Convert all remaining non-occupancy sensors lighting to occupancy sensors. Confirm and prioritize the list of remaining spaces with the Building Manager.

10. Install automated building management system that allows automatic temperature set points and remote access for the entire building. Computerized building management systems allow for greater energy efficiency potential as well as a human benefit for building managers by allowing remote access.

11. Determine how to measure the feasibility of onsite renewable energy, battery storage, and solar water-heating (specifically on the northeast side of the main building for the kitchen). Begin conversations with relevant engineers, renewable technology providers, and OPPD to examine what possibilities exist. Move forward with a project once the cost/benefit analysis reveals a positive forecast.

12. On an ongoing basis, conduct testing to identify air leaks in the building envelope (doors, windows) and take steps to seal or limit them. Create a prioritized list of steps needed to address leaks and budget for annual air sealing.

13. Update the GHG inventory every three years. Table of Contents 14

3. LONG-TERM STRATEGIES

(3+ years)

14. Develop FUMC building design guidelines for future construction and major renovation projects. These guidelines will specify the standards to which major renovations will be constructed, and ensure important resource-saving features are not value-engineered out of future projects. Design guidelines will be prescriptive enough to help FUMC meet its sustainability goals and flexible enough to allow for innovation and creativity.

WATER

2030 Goal: Maintain baseline water usage
2017-2019 (Average) Baseline: 199,716 gallons/year

Water is a sacred resource and access to clean, reliable water is a human right. Data from the Nebraska State Climate Office indicates that precipitation patterns may shift across the state due to climate change. Nebraska will likely see wetter winters and springs and drier summers. Increased variability of precipitation events plus increased frequency and severity of extreme events (heat, drought, heavy rain) means water stewardship will be of great importance for all Nebraskans in the near future.

First United Methodist Church of Omaha is a commendable steward of water. On average, FUMC uses just under 200,000 gallons of water each year. To put that quantity in context, FUMC's theoretical water budget (the amount of rain that typically falls on an entire property in a year) is approximately 9,965,000 gallons per year. Therefore, if FUMC were to set a goal of using only the amount of water that falls on the church's property, then the church would have a water budget of nearly 10 million gallons per year. However, FUMC currently only uses 2% of this theoretical water budget, which means FUMC is using less than 9,765,000 gallons of its fair share.

FUMC is committed to serving the community. Groups such as local Girl Scout troops are able to meet and use FUMC's spaces rather than having to own or lease their own spaces. Due to FUMC's commitment to serve as a gathering place for community groups, a water usage per capita goal would not be the most appropriate metric for tracking water usage. Therefore, FUMC's goal is to maintain its current baseline water usage while potentially increasing the number of people served by and at the church. Serving more people likely means an increase with the amount of water consumed by FUMC. However, through continued water efficiency projects and strategies below, FUMC can achieve its goal of maintaining baseline consumption.

1. SHORT-TERM STRATEGIES
(now - 1yr)

Strategies below also refocus FUMC's water stewardship beyond water quantity conservation

to quality preservation. Improving water quality is especially important for Nebraska's future climate given that more intense rain events are likely, which may lead to greater quantities of runoff and pollutants entering the City of Omaha's stormwater system and subsequently our local creeks and rivers. With initiatives such as increasing deep-rooted native and prairie plantings, installing and maintaining rain gardens and bioretention ponds, FUMC can become a more holistic and responsible steward of local, sacred water.

1. Continue to not irrigate the lawn.

2. Complete installation of faucet aerators. Confirm list of fixtures to be replaced with Building Manager. Second floor restrooms are eligible for renovation.

3. Commit to future purchases of water fixtures that meet or exceed EPA WaterSense criteria.

4. Install rain barrels to collect water that falls on FUMC's property to be used for irrigation needs. the west side of the property to shade the building in the summer and reduce cooling needs. Consult with resources from the Nebraska Forest Service for species to select and to avoid. Increased water usage may result from initial planting and care. Therefore, a great time to start planting is now, while the building is closed and water usage is low

5. Plant more trees throughout the property to sequester carbon and consider planting trees on (crossover with Energy & Emissions).

2. MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGIES (1yr - 3 yrs)

6. Complete installation of low-flow toilets. Confirm and prioritize the list of fixtures to be replaced with the Building Manager. Second floor restrooms are eligible for renovation.

7. Install a bioretention garden to help increase water quality on the property and provide educational opportunities. Consult with members who have experience with building and maintaining bioretention gardens. Include educational signage with installation

of the garden (crossover with Engagement).

8. Write a formal sustainable landscaping policy to guide the planting of native and ecologically well adapted species on FUMC grounds with the goal of increasing these types of species and decreasing the amount of turf grass. Identify potential Master Gardeners in the FUMC community and engage their expertise.

9. Conduct annual audits to find any leaks or high volume usage and adjust practices and infrastructure as-needed based on findings. Work with the Building Manager to identify current processes and to create a community culture of sharing information about leaks.

3. LONG-TERM STRATEGIES
(3+ years)

10. Continue to keep space dedicated to impervious surfaces, such as parking lots, to a minimum. Avoiding increased impervious surface area allows FUMC to avoid increased runoff and degraded water quality.

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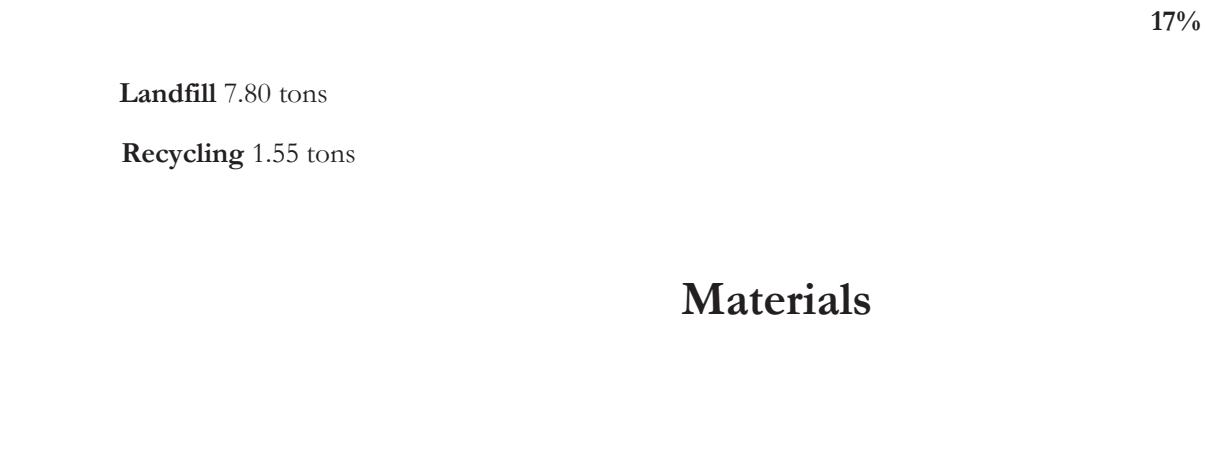
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT & WASTE

2030 Goal: 80% of materials are diverted from the landfill
2019 Baseline: 17% of materials are diverted from the landfill

Our local landfill produces methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, through anaerobic decomposition. This means materials deposited in landfills decompose in the absence of oxygen. Diverting materials from the landfill not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions, but also increases a landfill's lifespan. In 2019, the City of Omaha recycled 16,025 tons of material, which saved approximately 59,352 cubic yards of space at the Pheasant Point

Landfill and saved the City of Omaha around half a million dollars in energy costs avoided.[4] First United Methodist Church has a well-established and strong culture of sustainable material management. By continuing to reduce as much waste as possible, continuing the composting and recycling programs, and by implementing strategies in this chapter, FUMC will enhance its role as a wise steward of resources.



FUMC currently has three waste streams: recycling, landfill, and compost.

- Recycling. FUMC recycles two main categories of materials: fiber (office paper, paperboard, corrugated cardboard) and containers (hard plastic, glass, aluminum and steel). Recycling is collected and delivered by a dedicated FUMC member who also tracks annual quantities of materials recycled.

- Landfill. Landfill quantities are reported by FUMC staff to be fairly steady throughout the year.

1. SHORT-TERM STRATEGIES

(now - 1yr)

1. Create processes and protocols for how to weigh and track composted materials. Determine roles and responsibilities for FUMC staff and volunteers from the congregation. Create tracking and reporting procedures that are as streamlined, easy to-use, and as understandable as possible.

2. Request that the landfill hauler (currently Papillion Sanitation) provide actual weights of waste on invoices.

3. Continue to track weights of recycling, compost, and landfill on a quarterly or annual basis to measure diversion rates and progress over time.

4. Conduct a waste audit to determine the types of materials disposed of at FUMC. Based on findings from waste audits, examine options to divert materials from the landfill.

5. Identify areas of opportunity to reduce paper

usage and promote paperless initiatives as much as possible (crossover with Engagement).

19 Materials Management & Waste

- Composting. Although FUMC has a composting program, the environmental impacts of the program are currently unknown because volumes and weights of composted materials are not tracked.

Annual estimates for landfill and recycling are presented in the graphs on this page. FUMC's diversion rate (the percentage of materials prevented from going to the landfill through initiatives such as recycling and composting) is therefore most likely higher than the estimated baseline of 17%. A top strategy is for FUMC to begin weighing and tracking its compost so that a more accurate diversion rate may be established.

source). Consider hosting a training session for frequent users and/or create a short video to post on Facebook or YouTube that can be shared with guests and FUMC members (crossover with Engagement).

8. With paper that must be purchased, encourage the purchase of office paper that meets to-be-determined specifications regarding levels of post-consumer recycled and/or Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified content.

2. MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGIES (1yr - 3yrs)

9. Establish sustainable purchasing policies for FUMC that support sustainable purchasing (ex. implement a Church-wide stated preference for carbon-neutral products, post-consumer recycled or bio-based content, and/or vendors who disclose their social and environmental responsibility policies and practices).

10. Encourage any FUMC-branded apparel, such as the Compassion t-shirts, be sourced from sustainable and fair labor companies.

3. LONG-TERM STRATEGIES (3+ years)

6. Track fullness of the larger, 6-yd dumpster. If this dumpster is typically half full when collected by the hauler, there may be an opportunity to downsize this dumpster or consolidate into a single 6-yd or 8-yd dumpster. Reconfiguring dumpster sizes and quantities may present a cost-savings for FUMC.

7. Building on existing signs and forms, create a "how-to" guide for groups who use FUMC's kitchen about responsible waste management (e.g., how to recycle, compost, and prevent waste at the

11. Regularly review and update purchasing policy/ policies to ensure that best practices continue to be followed (e.g., re-using and sharing items whenever possible, purchasing in bulk, prioritizing products with less packaging and more post-consumer recycled content).

12. Require that all FUMC-owned electronics are "environmentally and socially preferable" (e.g., following guidance from organizations such as EnergyStar).

13. Assess availability of and accessibility to sustainable products. Shift purchasing practices and procurement policies as appropriate based on the types of products that become available in the future.

ENGAGEMENT

2030 Goal: 75 Sustainability Engagement Score
2020 Baseline: 58 Sustainability Engagement Score

A total of 116 FUMC members, staff, and clergy participated in a Sustainability Engagement Survey during March 2020. According to the survey results, 91% of First United Methodist Church members, staff, and clergy believe it is important for FUMC to be a community leader in sustainability. Advancing sustainability at FUMC and engaging with the issues of climate change will lead to collaborations and adaptations that may also have a positive impact on the greater Omaha community. Increased engagement about sustainability and climate change will position FUMC to be more resilient spiritually, socially, environmentally, and economically. Strategies in this chapter will build individual and community capacity for wisdom and action.

Engaging FUMC members, staff, and clergy with sustainability leads to individual behavior changes that may flow into collective action, including initiatives such as continued and expanded advocacy efforts with groups such as Omaha Together One Community (OTOC). Engagement strategies in this section may also lead to financial savings for FUMC through reduced resource use and increased fundraising potential to implement higher-cost strategies.

Primary Reason

The top three reasons why respondents believe sustainability matters at FUMC:

1. ENVIRONMENT - Because it lessens FUMC's environmental impact, conserves resources, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

2. RESPONSIBILITY - Because it's the right thing to do.

3. (tie) MISSION - Because it aligns with and supports FUMC's mission.

3. (tie) FUTURE GENERATIONS - Because it ensures that future generations can fully meet their needs

Through interviews with the Project Team and from the survey results, it is abundantly clear that members of the FUMC community value sustainability. According to survey results, 98% of respondents believe it is important for FUMC to take active steps to be sustainable. The primary reasons for why FUMC should deepen its commitment to sustainability are shown in the figure below. Outreach and communication for all of FUMC's sustainability strategies may be most effective

when messages include references to these reasons.

1. SHORT-TERM STRATEGIES

(now - 1yr)

1. Reduce building energy use through behavioral changes, such as normalizing turning off non emergency lights when they are not in use, keeping blinds closed on hot and sunny days, unplugging non-essential equipment when not in use, taking the stairs instead of the elevator if/when able (crossover with Energy & Emissions).

21 Engagement

2. Encourage FUMC groups to allow group members to attend meetings virtually. Each FUMC group may determine its own meeting frequency for the year and set the amount of how many of those meetings will be in-person or virtual (crossover with Active Transportation).

3. Identify areas of opportunity to reduce paper usage and promote paperless initiatives as much as possible (crossover with Materials Management & Waste). Examples of paperless initiatives could include a "Think Before You Print" campaign or a series of Sunday services that use electronic documents rather than paper handouts.

4. Host an "active commute" day each month during the summer (or other seasons) where everyone who is able is encouraged to actively commute (bus/bike/walk/scooter/carpool) to the Church (crossover with Active Transportation).

5. Ensure that creation care, sustainability, and climate change continue to be included in Sunday sermons and devotions throughout the week.

6. Purchase and share bus passes with members so they can try using the bus. Create fun and educational activities around bus usage, such as a scavenger hunt with confirmation classes (crossover with Active Transportation).

12. and implement a curriculum involving sustainability, climate change, diversity and inclusion for different groups at FUMC, including the Youth.

13. As FUMC makes progress towards its 2030 goals, share regular updates with members, staff, and clergy (ex. during Sunday services, in newsletters, on social media).

14. Develop fundraising and donor engagement strategies to support current and future sustainability projects emphasizing mission and purpose alignment.

7. Building on existing signs and forms, create a "how-to" guide for groups who use FUMC's kitchen about responsible waste management (e.g., how to recycle, compost, and prevent waste at the source). Consider hosting a training session for frequent users and/or create a short video to post on Facebook or YouTube that can be shared with guests and FUMC members (crossover with Materials Management &

8. Ensure that creation care, sustainability, and climate change continue to be included in Sunday sermons and devotions throughout the week.

9. Continue to promote healthy, minimally processed, local and sustainable food options at FUMC events.

10. Work with Omaha Metro Transit to share educational material with members about how to ride the bus (crossover with Active Transportation).

11. Plan programming around major liturgical times of the year (e.g., Season of Creation, Advent, Lent) and continue activities such as the Alternative

2. MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGIES (1yr - 3yrs)

15. Host events that help promote awareness

and ability to actively commute, such as inviting local bicycle technicians to share their expertise and/or help repair members' bicycles or sharing information about the environmental benefits of low-emission and electric vehicles. Continue collaboration with the local chapter of the Sierra Club to host similar events (crossover with Active Transportation).

16. Work with Omaha Metro to share educational material with members about how to ride the bus (crossover with Active Transportation).

17. Set up a revolving "green fund" to help fund sustainability projects.

18. Identify topic areas related to sustainability that members are interested in and provide resources for how FUMC members can increase sustainable behaviors and action.

19. Connect with a local faith-based organization (ex. Countryside Community Church) and set up a seasonal competition (ex. who can divert the most materials from the landfill; who can reduce their GHG emissions fastest).

20. Create friendly competitions within FUMC groups to reduce resource use, increase sustainable behaviors, and celebrate successes.

21. Create friendly competitions within FUMC groups to reduce resource use, increase sustainable behaviors, and celebrate successes.

participate (crossover with Active Transportation).

22. Conduct community-based social marketing (CBSM) campaigns internally targeting specific sustainable behaviors, using connections to faith, diversity and inclusion as a part of the messaging. Community-based social marketing is a method of encouraging sustainable behavior change through a variety of strategies

23. Provide short leadership immersion trainings on sustainability for staff and clergy and other FUMC leaders as appropriate.

24. Designate areas for pollinator habitat. Collaborate with the Building & Grounds committee to continue to identify locations.

25. Install a bioretention garden to help increase water quality on the property and provide educational opportunities. Consult with members who have experience with building and maintaining bioretention gardens. Include educational signage with installation of the garden (crossover with Water).

3. LONG-TERM STRATEGIES

(3+ years)

26. Develop and implement an active commuting program, including a carpool-matching component and support for active commute modes such as busing, bicycling, and walking. Encourage community groups and partners to also

27. Expand and enhance gardening initiatives on FUMC's grounds and potentially serve as a true community garden. Collaborate with the Building & Grounds committee to identify locations for planting and crops to grow. A food forest or orchard may also be considered for the planting and harvesting of fruit and nut trees as well as berry bushes.

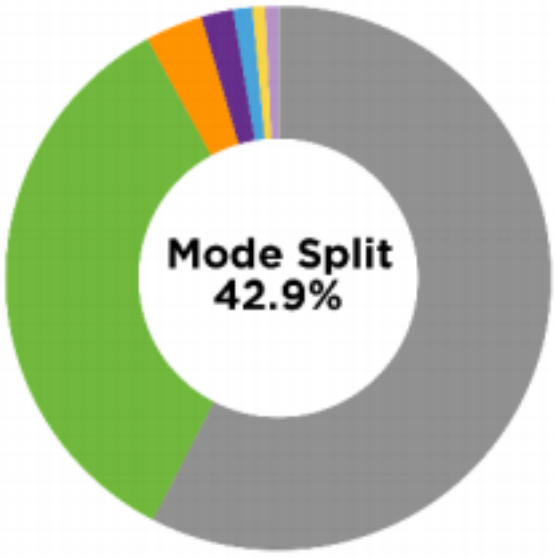
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

2030 Goal: 50% of the FUMC community commutes to FUMC in ways other than driving alone in a car

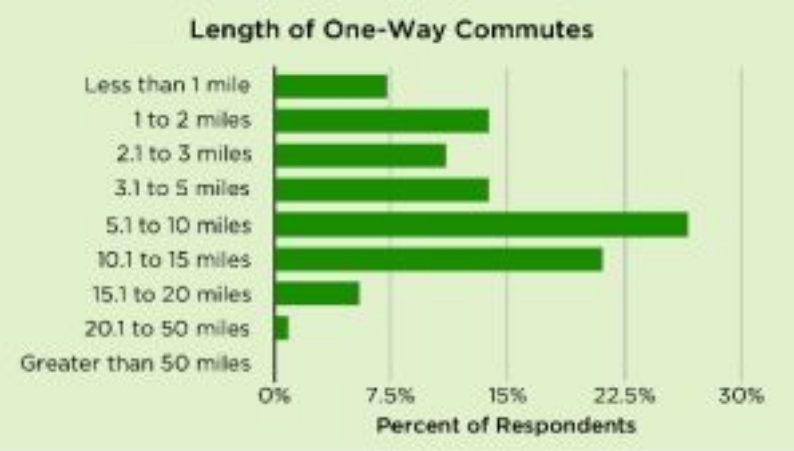
2020 Baseline: 43% of the FUMC community commutes to FUMC in ways other than driving alone in a car

Emissions from transportation in the United States have steadily risen every year since 2012.[5] Recently, the transportation sector became the largest emitter of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S., surpassing the electric power sector for the top spot.[6] The majority (59%) of emissions in the transportation sector come from light duty vehicles, which includes the cars and trucks we use to commute to work and worship.[7]

Active transportation is defined as commuting to FUMC in ways other than driving alone in a car. While a majority of trips (57%) reported in the 2020 survey were conducted by driving alone, FUMC's mode split (43%) remains relatively high for the Omaha area. The mode split indicates the percentage of FUMC members, staff, and clergy who commute to FUMC in active commute modes (i.e., not driving alone). FUMC's relatively high mode split can likely be explained by the assumption that many survey respondents reported carpooling as a frequent way of getting to FUMC. Members of the same household likely attend Sunday services together and therefore likely make up the majority of those who carpool to FUMC.



Building on the carpooling culture already established at FUMC, the opportunities for increasing active transportation among FUMC's members, staff, and clergy are many. Access to faster and more reliable transportation through public transit is coming with the soon-to-launch Omaha Rapid Bus Transit (ORBT) on Dodge Street.



Forecasting out three to four years, the Crossroads Mall area will be undergoing a large-scale redevelopment that will include entertainment, retail, and housing. Development in this area may bring new members and young families to FUMC via walking and other active commute modes.

Finally, according to the survey results, a plurality of respondents live five miles or less from FUMC, which presents current opportunities for increased walking, biking, and taking transit. Strategies in this chapter will build on current opportunities and create ways to increase active transportation among all those who travel to and from FUMC.

1. SHORT-TERM STRATEGIES

(now - 1yr)

1. Continue to offer remote working opportunities for staff and clergy (crossover with Energy & Emissions).

2. Continue to offer virtual worship services for members (crossover with Energy & Emissions).

3. Encourage FUMC groups to allow group members to attend meetings virtually. Each FUMC group may determine its own meeting frequency for the year and set the amount of how many of those meetings will be in-person or virtual (crossover with Engagement).

4. Purchase and share bus passes with members so they can try using the bus. Create fun and educational activities around bus usage, such as a scavenger hunt with confirmation classes.

5. Host an "active commute" day each month during the summer (or other seasons) where everyone who is able is encouraged to actively commute (bus/bike/ walk/scooter/carpool) to the Church (crossover with Engagement).

6. Work with Omaha Metro Transit to share educational material with members about how to ride the bus (crossover with Engagement).

2. MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGIES (1yr - 3yrs)

7. Advocate and work with the City of Omaha to create safer pedestrian environments near and around FUMC.

8. Install sidewalks or pathways connecting the church building to the sidewalks along the perimeter of the property for safe and

easy pedestrian and wheelchair access. Evaluate feasibility of permeable sidewalk material.

9. Host events that help promote awareness and ability to actively commute, such as inviting local bicycle technicians to share their expertise and/or help repair members' bicycles or sharing information about the environmental benefits of low-emission and electric vehicles. Continue collaboration with the local chapter of the Sierra Club to host similar events (crossover with Engagement).

3. LONG-TERM STRATEGIES

(3+ years)

11. Develop and implement an active commuting program, including a carpool-matching component and support for active commute modes such as busing, bicycling, and walking. Encourage community groups and partners to also participate (crossover with Engagement).

10. Assess current availability of bike parking infrastructure and the accessibility of bike parking locations. Increase quantity and enhance quality of access to bike parking locations to better accommodate current demand. Availability of quality bike parking locations, including potential indoor storage space for staff and clergy, may also increase the number of people who feel comfortable commuting to FUMC via bike.

12. Monitor the need to install electric vehicle charging stations as more EVs are in the market, being mindful that the demand for charging while at church is likely small and the current price point of EVs makes them unaffordable for many in our community.

Master Tracking List of All Short-Term (Fall 2020 - Fall 2021) Strategies

Continue to offer virtual worship services for members.

Continue to offer remote working opportunities for staff and clergy.

Continue to track monthly electricity and natural gas usage to measure GHG emissions over time.

Continue to track monthly electricity and natural gas usage

to measure GHG emissions over time.	Energy & Emissions; Active Transportation
Formalize standard heating and cooling temperature set points across all spaces. Special considerations must be made for the sanctuary space to keep the organ working and in great condition.	Energy & Emissions; Active Transportation Energy & Emissions; Active Transportation
Reduce building energy use through behavioral changes, such as normalizing turning off non-emergency lights when they are not in use, keeping blinds closed on hot and sunny days, unplugging non essential equipment when not in use, taking the stairs instead of the elevator if/when able (crossover with Engagement).	Energy & Emissions Energy & Emissions Energy & Emissions; Engagement
Identify sections of the main building that are not in use during certain times of the day or year. Develop and implement a policy for reduced heating/cooling these buildings and spaces when they are not in use. Document practices already in place by the current Building Manager and formalize these practices as standard operating procedures.	Energy & Emissions

27 Master Tracking List

Plant more trees throughout the property to sequester carbon and consider planting trees on the west side of the property to shade the building in the summer and reduce cooling needs. Consult with resources from the Nebraska Forest Service for species to select and to avoid. Increased water usage may result from initial planting and care. Therefore, a great time to start planting is now, while the building is closed and water usage is low.	Install rain barrels to collect water that falls on FUMC's property to be used for irrigation needs.
Continue to not irrigate the lawn.	Create processes and protocols for how to weigh and track composted materials. Determine roles and responsibilities for FUMC staff and volunteers from the congregation. Create tracking and reporting procedures that are as streamlined, easy-to-use, and as understandable as possible.
Complete installation of faucet aerators. Confirm list of fixtures to be replaced with Building Manager. Second floor restrooms are eligible for renovation.	Request that the landfill hauler (currently Papillion Sanitation) provide actual weights of waste on invoices.
Commit to future purchases of water fixtures that meet or exceed EPA WaterSense criteria.	Continue to track weights of recycling, compost, and landfill on a quarterly or annual basis to measure diversion rates and progress over time.

Management

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29
Conduct a waste audit to determine the types of

materials disposed of at FUMC. Based on findings from waste audits, examine options to divert materials from the landfill.

promote paperless initiatives as much as possible.

Track fullness of the larger, 6-yd dumpster. If this dumpster is typically half full when collected by the hauler, there may be an opportunity to downsize this dumpster or consolidate into a single 6-yd or 8-yd dumpster. Reconfiguring dumpster sizes and quantities may present a cost-savings for FUMC.

With paper that must be purchased, encourage the purchase of office paper that meets to-be-determined specifications regarding levels of post-consumer recycled and/or Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified content.

Building on existing signs and forms, create a "how to" guide for groups who use FUMC's kitchen about responsible waste management (e.g., how to recycle, compost, and prevent waste at the source). Consider hosting a training session for frequent users and/or create a short video to post on Facebook or YouTube that can be shared with guests and FUMC members.

Encourage FUMC groups to allow group members to attend meetings virtually. Each FUMC group may determine its own meeting frequency for the year and set the amount of how many of those meetings will be in person or virtual.

Identify areas of opportunity to reduce paper usage and

Host an "active commute" day each month during the summer (or other seasons) where everyone who is able is encouraged to actively commute (bus/bike/walk/scooter/ carpool) to the Church.

Purchase and share bus passes with members so they can try using the bus. Create fun and educational activities around bus usage, such as a scavenger hunt with confirmation classes.

Ensure that creation care, sustainability, and climate change continue to be included in Sunday sermons and devotions throughout the week.

Host an "active commute" day each month during the summer (or other seasons) where everyone who is able is encouraged to actively commute (bus/bike/walk/scooter/ carpool) to the Church.

Identify areas of opportunity to reduce paper usage and promote paperless initiatives as much as possible (crossover with Materials Management & Waste). Examples of paperless initiatives could include a "Think Before You Print" campaign or a series of Sunday services that use electronic documents rather than paper handouts.

Engagement; Active Transportation

Engagement

Plan programming around major liturgical times of the year (e.g., Season of Creation, Advent, Lent) and continue activities such as the Alternative Christmas.

Materials & Waste Management

Continue to promote healthy, minimally processed, local and sustainable food options at FUMC events.

Work with Omaha Metro Transit to share educational material with members about how to ride the bus.

Engagement

Engagement

Engagement; Active

Engagement; Active

Engagement; Active

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