

GREEN
TEAM
kuc.org



EARTH DAY

WEEK FOUR: APRIL 22

TRANSFORMING
ENERGY

READINGS

Nehemiah 9:6
Job 37:14–18
Genesis 9:12–13

POETRY

Grace of the Sun

End the Oil Age
Salvage Paradise
Now we must live in
The Grace of the Sun.

- Robert Montgomery,
Scottish poet and creator of a "light
poem" installed at COP26
using 1,000 solar powered, reusable
lamps.^[i]

REFLECTION

Reflect on our responsibility to future generations regarding alternative energy sources (see Gen 9:12–13 for God's covenant to protect creation.)

PRAYER

God of All,
The sun, the wind, the waves, and all
of earth are your gifts for the
flourishing of the whole community of
life. Help us to appreciate these gifts
and find ways to use them creatively
to produce sustainable energy for all.
Amen.^[ii]

CHALLENGE

Celebrate "Earth Hour" on 3/25 from
8:30–9:30 p.m. by turning all lights off.

FACTS

Residential energy use produces 20%
of national greenhouse gas emissions.
Of that, 69% of residential emissions
are the result of electricity use.^[iii]

75% of the energy used to power
household electronics is consumed
when they are switched off. Using
"smart power strips" eliminates
phantom loads by shutting off the
power to electronics when they are
not in use.^[iv]

LEARNING

What is the next best thing to installing solar panels on your house? It's a new program called "community solar" which allows you to replace electricity generated by fossil fuels with electricity created by solar farms in Illinois.

In 2021, Kenilworth Union Church became one of the first houses of worship on the North Shore to participate in a community solar program. In the last 12 months, the church offset about 136,000 kilowatt hours of power from our electric utility, ComEd. And, in doing so, the church has also saved about \$2,600 on our electric bill.

<https://kuc.org/kenilworth-union-church-goes-solar/>

Members of our church may also connect their own homes to a local community solar program. It's fairly easy to do and Green Team co-chair King would be glad to walk you through how it's done. Just call him at (847) 867-0208.

Interested in installing solar panels on your home? King and his wife Hope installed solar panels on their own home in 2020 and have been very pleased with the economic and environmental savings. If you have an interest in solar panels for your home, again please give King a call.



^[i]<https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/prayers-related-to-sdg7-sustainable-energy>

^[ii]<https://www.pnas.org/content/117/32/19122>

^[iii]<https://www.energysage.com/energy-efficiency/101/ways-to-save-energy/>

^[iv]https://www.deegesolar.co.uk/grace_of_the_sun_robert_montgomery_solar_poem_cop26/