

# List of Sustainable Actions for congregations to implement – UMC Northern Illinois Conference

4/30/2023

## 1. **Communication**

Present slide deck entitled “Leaping to NetZero” to provide an overview of the Northern Illinois Conference initiative. This should be shared with congregations, staff and decision-making bodies.

## 2. **Appoint a NetZero Ambassador**

We need leadership and a person to drive the effort. This leader will communicate with the Northern Illinois Conference.

## 3. **Energy audit**

Energy audits/assessments done for free by utilities identify areas for energy savings such as lighting, heating and cooling, water heating, and appliances. They may also install free energy-saving products such as smart thermostats. Faith in place is offering a free energy audit and 10,000 to any UMC church which installs solar panels.

## 4. **Community solar**

There is no cost to subscribe and save 20% on the energy part of the electric bill. If all churches in the conference subscribed, we could collectively save about a million dollars.

## 5. **Lighting**

The energy audit suggestions and/or replacement with LED that would allow savings in electricity usage.

## 6. **Install smart thermostats**

The energy audit would identify these and potentially replace them.

## **7. Windows, doors and insulation**

These energy efficiency upgrades can save money on energy bills.

## **8. Electricity usage monitors**

Use electricity usage monitors (made by Baldor or Kill A Watt) to measure the major energy usage of devices, even when turned off. (Cost 20-40 dollars).

## **9. Install sensors to turn off lights**

Use vacancy and occupancy sensors to turn off lights in unoccupied areas.

## **10. Blower Door test**

Air leaks in the building envelope are a major source of energy loss. A blower door test and infrared scan can identify leak areas. (Cost about \$300 dollars) Have an air sealing event.

## **11. Composting**

Community composting for the entire congregation

## **Resources**

- Wind Free Solar - <https://www.windfree.us/>
- Nexamp Community solar – <https://solar.nexamp.com>
- Project Green Environmental Solutions (LED lighting) - <https://projectgreenenvironmentalsolutions.com/#/>
- Faith in place - <https://www.faithinplace.org>