

# Peace Dale Congregational Church celebrates going Solar!



Peace Dale Congregational Church will Flip the Switch on Solar and celebrate the installation of its solar panels on Sunday, September 18, 2022 at 2 p.m. at the church, located at 261 Columbia St., Wakefield, RI.

The Solar Strollers will make their South County dance debut (First glimpse - [https://youtu.be/LOYgG\\_fKjic](https://youtu.be/LOYgG_fKjic)). Music will be abundant; refreshments will be served. The public is invited, and no reservations are necessary. The event will be held outdoors, weather permitting, and will move indoors if necessary.

Bill McKibben, renown author and environmentalist, will be sending a message of congratulations to the event. McKibben is cofounder and Senior Advisor at 350.org, an international climate campaign that works in 188 countries around the world.

According to the Reverend A. Fred Evenson, the church's Pastor, "We hope this event will help

raise awareness in terms of ecologically sustainable practices. We are actively working to create a greener future for generations to come!"

Peace Dale Congregational Church's Green Team, chaired by Don Hermes, made a commitment to install more than 100 solar panels on the roof of the education wing of the church in an effort to reduce the Church's annual \$14,000 electric bill and to reduce carbon emissions. The high electric bill reflected the church's widespread community outreach.

Claudia Swain and Jim Blackerby of the Green Team spearheaded a fundraising effort to raise nearly \$90,000, and members of the Church stepped up to the plate to cover the cost of the project.

The Green Team worked closely with RISE (Rhode Island Saving Energy) and SolPower, the installer of the panels. In July and August 2022, the church created more electricity than it needed, resulting in a zero bill payment due and also a reserve for the church's future use.

The church expects to recover the cost of its investment in six years, yielding a 20% return. The savings are estimated to be the equivalent of driving 2.4 million miles a year. An additional benefit is that SolPower is gifting \$300 to the church for each family inspired to go Solar as a result of this project. Several families in the area have made this commitment.

For more information: Contact Claudia Swain at 401-265-8226 or visit the website [peacedalechurch.org](http://peacedalechurch.org)