

***Central Baptist Church Installs Solar Panels:
Investing in Clean Energy while Reducing Electricity Costs***

Central Baptist Church in Wayne, PA seeks to practice responsible care for God's Creation. Members were concerned about the impact of their congregation's carbon footprint and decided to take action to reduce the amount of fossil fuels they consumed. They made an investment in clean, renewable energy and installed 48 solar panel arrays on the church roof. These 48 panels produce 9.6 KW of electricity and will supply approximately 30 percent of the 40,000 kWh of electricity that the church uses per year. In addition the church invests in wind energy by purchasing about 2,500 kWh per month in wind blocks of renewable energy credits, thus ensuring that clean energy sources contribute to the local power grid. They have set a goal of reducing their total energy consumption by 7 percent. If they achieve this goal, 100 percent of the electricity they consume will come from or support renewable energy.



The electricity output from Central Baptist Church's solar panels will reduce the amount of money the congregation spends on utility bills each month. The congregation estimates that if their solar panels generate 11,600 KWh of electricity per year they will save approximately \$1,740 annually at current electric rates. In addition, the congregation can also generate income through the sale of renewable energy credits. The church will receive 1 credit for every 1000 KWh generated, approximately 12 credits per year. They expect to sell each credit for \$200 or \$2,400 per year for all 12 credits generated. At this rate, the congregation expects the solar system will pay for itself in only 4.8 years. After the system is paid for, the savings and revenue generated by Central Baptist Church's solar system can be used to fund other mission opportunities, meaning that the solar panels were not only a way for the congregation to improve their stewardship of God's Creation, but their financial stewardship as well.

Central Baptist Church funded their solar project largely through grants from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Energy Harvest Program and the Department of Economic and Community Development. Without these grants the solar systems payback period would jump from approximately 5 years to 20.

[Click here](#) to find out about funding opportunities in your state.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Ecology Mission of Central Baptist Church.