

United Methodist Creation Justice Model Resolution
**Encourage adoption of solar and electric heat pumps to achieve
netzero and community resilience.**

WHEREAS *the Earth is the Lord's and everything in it;*

WHEREAS the bible teaches that God created the earth, and filled it with good things. God desires the people to be faithful and care for the land, offering an inheritance of land to sustain them forever, and that land itself be well and sustainably tended:

*The blameless spend their days under the LORD's care,
and their inheritance will endure forever.
In times of disaster they will not wither;
in days of famine they will enjoy plenty.
Psalm 37:18-19*

WHEREAS oil, gas, coal, biofuel and other emissions causing and high polluting sources of energy have been shown to bring disaster to the earth, its animals, its ecosystems, and its people and electrification as powered by clean energy is a key step in a just transition;

WHEREAS John Wesley embraced electricity as having uses for everyday people toward healing, encouraging that “all those well-wishers of humankind” should “to make full use of it” (Primitive Physic) where it may be used as a public good;

WHEREAS there are improvements to technologies so that solar installations and heat pumps are available, efficient, practical, a bulwark of sustainable improvements to energy use in churches and church buildings, and a big step forward toward achieving netzero;

WHEREAS funding is increasingly more available from a variety of sources;

WHEREAS the United Methodist Book of Resolutions [Energy Policy Statement](#) declares:

Energy policy decisions must be measured by sustainability as a criterion in addition to justice. In terms of energy policy, sustainability means energy use that will: ensure adequate resources and opportunity for present and future generations to enjoy a healthy quality of life; enhance local environmental and economic vitality while minimizing impacts on the health of both human and non-human creation; and promote social and intergenerational equity.

BE IT RESOLVED:

The [*insert your*] Annual Conference will encourage all congregations to get an energy audit, and further encourage at least 100 congregations and/or church owned organizations such as church school buildings and/or food banks to either install their own solar + storage systems;

And/or, support local community members, including interfaith, low-income, rural, and Black, Brown and Indigenous communities in the development of a community collective solar installation + storage system, or their own, recognizing and following community leadership in those cases;

And, in addition to encouraging the installation of solar + storage systems, also encourage the installation of electric heat pumps, electric or convection cooking stoves, and electric water heaters;

Finally, we respectfully request Bishop [*Name of bishop in your Annual Conference*] may endorse the Campaign and encourage our District Superintendents to discuss it through district outreach, colloquies, charge conferences and wherever appropriate, as well as at several Zoom information sessions, with the goal of leaders from every congregation in our Annual Conference attending one of several Zoom information sessions.

This resolution as re-written can focus on solar only, or heat pumps/electrification only or be revised to include geothermal. This resolution was built out of a [resolution passed](#) in the Oregon Idaho Annual Conference in 2021.