

Pilgrim Congregational Church Commissions Rooftop Solar PV System With Solar Partner, Clean Energy Design

Harwich Port, MA - September, 11, 2015 - Pilgrim Congregational Church elected to pursue renewable energy in March, 2015 through the installation of a turnkey 43.31 KW, multiple array solar photovoltaic (PV) system consisting of 142 high efficiency LG 305 watt mono-crystalline panels. This system will provide more than 100% of the annual electric needs of the church.

The Pilgrim Congregational Church was established in 1854 and has been a beloved landmark and gathering center for many of Harwich Port's residents and visitors. To this day, the steeple remains a beacon for Nantucket Sound mariners. The church has chosen to install panels on the roof sections on the rear of the building only, in order to respect the architectural integrity of the building.

The Board of Trustees formed a Building Committee in 2014 to assemble a strategy and plans to fulfill its mission of becoming good stewards of the earth by reducing the church's carbon footprint. Installation of the system completes a part of the overall strategy. When an institution, such as the Pilgrim Congregational Church, elects to install an appropriately sized PV system, the benefits to the earth, the local community, and the institution itself can be quite substantial.

For example, Pilgrim's new solar system was sized and built to satisfy approximately 110% of its electric energy usage. State law, in connection with net metering, will allow them to donate energy credits to anyone they designate within a zone established by Eversource, the Utility Company. Therefore, installing a system that will generate 10% more electricity than they use was intentional. They plan to donate accrued billing credits to local nonprofit charitable organizations as determined by the Church's mission committee.

In addition to the positive environmental impact of owning a solar system, another important benefit is to provide long-term financial sustainability in response to the ever-increasing cost of electricity. This will ensure that the Church continues to be a key gathering place for all members of the community and will continue its mission of generous giving to local, state, national, and international causes.

A Kiosk has been set up in Monbleau Hall so that interested members of the Church and the community will be able to view and monitor the solar energy system production data and learn about the environmental attributes/offsets of the system. This, along with renewable energy workshops at the Church will provide educational outreach to the community and will send a very important message about sustainability, renewable energy sources, and the environment.

Frank Smith, Trustee
Pilgrim Congregational Church