



AMERICAN CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Wisconsin Faith Communities for Equitable Solar Initiative by Wisconsin Green Muslims

wisconsin-green-muslims.org/faithsolar/

This guide offers a successful and stepwise model for you to replicate in your community. It is part of a series featuring the award-winning programs from the finalists of the American Climate Leadership Awards 2022 by ecoAmerica.

OVERVIEW

Wisconsin Faith Communities for Equitable Solar Initiative, coordinated by Wisconsin Green Muslims, provides an opportunity to (a) address Islamophobia, discrimination, and structural racism, (b) advance solar energy through building interfaith relationships grounded in our collective values of love, light and justice, and (c) advocate for energy democracy work that is community-based, solutions-focused, frontline, BIPOC and women-led, and justice-centered.

Wisconsin is home to 6,078 congregations with over three million adherents who regularly attend services, according to the 2010 Association of Religious Data Archives (ARDA), State Membership Report. These congregations and places of worship and associated faith-based facilities, religious schools and services present a tremendous potential to advance solar energy and energy efficiency to address the climate crisis. With a limited existing interfaith work in Wisconsin, and with the great unifying power of solar energy and shining sunlight, the commons, an interfaith solar educational and service program, such as Wisconsin Faith Communities for Equitable Solar Initiative is vital and viable.

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

1. Desktop review to assess if solar is viable at the faith-based facility.
2. If yes, share with the facility the good news "Your site is a solar-promising site!"
3. Meet with the Green Team to discuss the faith and solar initiative program.
4. Gain approval to conduct a digital solar review (e.g., Helioscope).
5. Provide faith leaders with the report and explore financial models.
6. Coordinate a peer-faith and solar sharing and planning meeting(s).
7. Arrange detailed on-site solar assessment.
8. Get a Letter of Intent and financial commitment to move forward with project.
9. Issue Request for Proposals, choose installer and arrange for solar installation.
10. Generate media attention and community recognition.

Wisconsin Green Muslims is an ACLA 2022 Finalist. For more information and replication guides, go to ecoAmerica.org.