

North Decatur United Methodist Church Powers Up with Solar Energy

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Decatur, Ga. —This Earth Month, [North Decatur United Methodist Church](#) (NDUMC) is celebrating a major step toward sustainability with the recent interconnection of its 56 kW solar energy system to Georgia Power’s grid. Made possible through Georgia Interfaith Power and Light’s (GIPL) [Solar-Wise](#) program, this project underscores the church’s commitment to environmental stewardship and energy independence while significantly reducing long-term utility costs.

“Faith communities across Georgia are leading by example, showing that sustainability and stewardship go hand in hand,” said Hannah Shultz, GIPL Program Director. **“North Decatur UMC’s investment in solar is a powerful witness to their values and an inspiration for other congregations looking to take action.”**

[Better Tomorrow Solar](#) installed the system, which is expected to offset 77% of the church’s annual energy consumption and generate \$14,000 in energy savings in the first year. This will reduce the church’s carbon footprint by 1,200 tons over 20 years—the equivalent of eliminating 2,625,174 miles of driving.

“NDUMC’s decision to install solar panels highlights the church’s longstanding commitment to serving the community,” said Kaveh Kamooneh, owner of Better Tomorrow Solar. **“By harnessing the power of the sun, the church is playing a part in creating a cleaner, more sustainable future for generations ahead.”**

“NDUMC strives to honor and value all God’s creation,” says Rev. Nanci Hicks, the Senior Pastor of the church. **“We believe having access to and utilizing solar technology for electric utilities is one way in which we can achieve that goal. We appreciate the support GIPL has provided throughout this process.”**

To help offset the up-front cost of the solar installation, NDUMC is applying for [Inflation Reduction Act](#) (IRA) tax credits, which allow nonprofits to claim direct payments covering up to 30% of the system’s cost. IRA incentives are still available to congregations and provide faith communities with crucial financial support for renewable energy projects.

As part of GIPL’s program, NDUMC has received Green Team coaching and classes, a low-cost solar assessment, and guidance throughout the installation process.

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***Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL)** is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that inspires and equips communities of faith to organize, implement practical climate solutions, and advocate across Georgia on issues of climate change, environmental justice, and community resilience. An affiliate of the national Interfaith Power and Light movement, GIPL envisions a Georgia where all people can flourish in a healthy environment, a stable climate, and resilient communities.*



Photo Credit: Better Tomorrow Solar



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**Over 300 Faith Leaders
Gather in Atlanta to Discuss
Climate Solutions at GIPL’s
2025 Green Team Summit**



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