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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNIVERSITY MENNONITE CHURCH INSTALLS SOLAR PANELS

State College, PA – The University Mennonite Church (UMC) has installed on their Meetinghouse, located at 1601 Norma Street in State College, PA, a solar power system consisting of 75 roof-mounted panels which will produce approximately 27,000 KWh of electricity annually. The solar installation project is a major component of the church’s initiative to make their facility a Net-Zero Energy building. Other components of UMC’s Net-Zero Energy plan include reducing annual electric consumption to about 24,000 KWh by replacing existing resistant heating units with high efficiency heat pumps, using programable thermostats, and converting to more energy-efficient LED lighting. These changes grew out of the congregation’s theological calling to care for God’s creation.

Partial funding for these energy efficient changes came from the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF) and the Mennonite Creation Care Network (MCCN). “We are extremely grateful and humbled by the support of WPPSEF and MCCN in our endeavor to become better stewards of our resources and the environment. We hope that we will be able to encourage and provide information to other churches that are contemplating moving towards ‘net-zero’ energy” says Kate Heinzl, pastor of UMC.

ABOUT UNIVERSITY MENNONITE CHURCH

[University Mennonite Church](https://universitymennonite.org), is a welcoming community of Christians who identify with the Anabaptist faith tradition. We understand that caring for the earth is a key part of our Christian calling. We affirm the [Creation Care Resolution of the Mennonite Church USA](#) calling on congregations to “commit to growing in their dedication to care for God’s Creation as an essential part of the good news of Jesus Christ”. We are working within our congregation and community to identify and take actions promoting Environmental Stewardship and Environmental Justice. Visit <https://universitymennonite.org> for additional information about University Mennonite Church.

ABOUT WPPSEF

The **West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF)** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that invests in the deployment of sustainable energy technologies that benefit West Penn Power ratepayers in Pennsylvania. WPPSEF investments are focused in three broad categories:

- Deployment of sustainable and clean energy technologies.
- Deployment of energy efficiency and conservation technologies.
- Facilitating economic development, environmental betterment, and public education as they relate to sustainable energy deployment in the WPP service region.

Visit <http://www.wppsef.org> for further information or [YouTube](#) – Listen to what our project partners have to say about us.

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