

ECOFaith-Santa Barbara
(Environmental Coalition of Faith Communities in Santa Barbara)

JSBower Foundation
Grant Report

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Greater Santa Barbara Clergy Association

Holy Cross Catholic Church

I.V. Minyan & Community Shul of
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Interfaith Initiative of Santa Barbara

Islamic Society of Santa Barbara

La Casa de Maria

Montecito Covenant Church

New Friendship Baptist Church

Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church

Santa Barbara Friends Meeting

Second Baptist Church

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

Trinity Episcopal Church

Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

Westmont College

Lewis Chapel CME Church

ECOFaith-Santa Barbara

(Environmental Coalition of Faith Communities in Santa Barbara)

“The nations raged, but your wrath has come, and the time for judging the dead, for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints and all who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying those who destroy the earth.” (Revelation 11:18)

1. SUMMARY

In 2008 the JS Bower foundation awarded a grant of \$66,300 to create a coalition of faith communities to help Santa Barbara to achieve the CEC goal to achieve fossil free energy by 2033. To achieve this goal will require unprecedented cooperation between government, business, science, and religion. This purpose of this project was to create an organization, a strategy, and a process for religious organizations to become full partners in this effort by greening their institutional buildings as well as educating and encouraging their congregations to adopt sustainable lifestyles.

During the past two years, we have completed a pilot project of four faith communities to provide a working model for an expanded effort. This report outlines our progress to date and provides a foundation for the next phase.

2. NEED

There is an urgent global and local need to address climate change and conserve resources. Understanding that buildings are responsible for almost half (48%) of all greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) annually, there is growing consensus that weatherizing and retrofitting the already-built environment from single-family homes to institutions like schools and government buildings is key to reducing GHG and reversing climate change.¹ To achieve the goal of slowing climate change and reducing our need for fossil fuel, religious institutions must play a major role, both by retrofitting their buildings for energy efficiency and by calling on their congregations to be better stewards of the environment.

While reducing pollution and ending global warming requires scientific and technological advances, such innovations alone will not be sufficient to stop the underlying causes of climate change. There will also need to be a profound shift in human behavior whereby people are deeply motivated to reduce their consumption and waste.

Seventy-eight percent of our population identifies itself as religious or spiritual. Since religion powerfully influences human behavior, were these institutions to turn their focus to caring for creation and reducing global warming, the possibilities for rapid and far-reaching social change are profound. The Environmental Coalition of Faith Communities, Santa Barbara (ECOFaith Santa Barbara) is developing and implementing a comprehensive program to help religious communities assess energy consumption in their places of worship,

¹ <http://www.architecture2030.org/>

to retrofit their buildings for energy efficiency and to develop sustainable practices from a faith-based perspective. This process is critical to transforming our economy and society.

3. MISSION

ECOFaith Santa Barbara has forged a working coalition of faith communities that have committed to the following Preamble and Mission:

Preamble

As representatives of diverse faith groups serving the greater Santa Barbara community, we gather together to acknowledge that our planet is in environmental peril and that collaborative leadership is needed to protect and preserve creation. Our faith traditions call us to be intentional stewards of the environment.

Mission Statement

Santa Barbara ECOFaith builds on the convictions of religious faith from many traditions to address the urgent needs of the environment. Drawing on and working with ongoing efforts of other community agencies and organizations we seek to achieve the following goals:

- 1. Work towards energy efficiency and conservation in our places of religious faith.*
- 2. Educate and encourage our congregations to adopt environmentally sustainable lifestyles as a dimension of spiritual practice.*
- 3. Partner with broader community to create a healthy environment.*

4. PURPOSE

ECOFaith Santa Barbara seeks to build on the growing awareness among faith-based institutions to care for creation and advances the local and national movement to building more sustainable communities. This will require unprecedented cooperation between all sectors of government, business, education, nonprofit organizations, science, and religion. Our program will help solve the local need by bringing together key public, private, and nonprofit community resources, and partnering with local, regional and national faith-based coalitions that are undertaking environmental work to help our community achieve the objective of reducing carbon emissions and becoming more environmentally sustainable. We provide the tools and the expertise to help congregations make a profound shift to sustainable practices and building efficiencies as effectively and quickly as possible.

Our project recognizes the particular promise of faith-based institutions joining this collective environmental effort to significantly reduce carbon emissions and develop sustainable practices. We also have designed our program to respond to the particular challenges faith-based organizations face. Faith-based institutions generally are not eligible for government funds to help weatherize or retrofit their buildings even though they often act as community centers, providing meeting space for non-religious organizations. Moreover, many of these buildings are decades to centuries old, so the needed retrofits and repairs for energy efficiency can be significant. The fact that many congregations are on a limited budget

makes the likelihood of retrofitting buildings and re-landscaping for water and resource conservation even more challenging.

ECO Faith Santa Barbara offers a unique and practical program to these faith communities. We identify a team of energy experts who assess, record, guide, and refine the steps needed to become, ultimately, carbon neutral or zero net energy. While there are a growing number of local, regional and national organizations that provide resources on-line, the information can be overwhelming to busy clergy and congregations. We assist in sifting through information and opportunities that range from utilities rebates to the latest in retrofitting design; we assist the congregation in developing educational materials; and, we bring in speakers to educate and inspire congregations to “go green.” None of the statewide or national faith-based environmental groups provide the actual energy audits and detailed plans to retrofit specific faith-based buildings, which distinguishes our project from the others. Our project provides real energy-saving results.

Our team of energy and architectural professionals provide expert assessments, plans and budgets for retrofitting faith-based buildings and grounds. In many cases, only by having such energy retrofit plans in place can a faith community qualify for the kinds of rebate and other programs that are offered through utility companies. In most cases, faith communities do not have the time, nor the money, to assemble on their own a team of energy experts to do this work; we help them do this.

“Without ECOFaith my congregation would not have considered addressing environmental issues in their own lives or in the life of the church. The staff of ECOFaith has helped us design a plan for making our eighty-year old buildings more energy efficient and helping those in the congregation recognize that caring for God’s creation is important, especially to those who have the least. They are beginning to recognize that eco-justice is closely related to economic justice.”

Rev. Dr. Wallace K. Shepherd
Second Baptist Church

5. HISTORY

ECOFaith was formed in 2008, with the encouragement of Congresswoman Lois Capps and a grant from the James S. Bower Foundation. ECOFaith is a local faith-based initiative mobilizing churches, synagogues, mosques, temples and other religious communities to eliminate local causes of global warming in their buildings and practices.

These institutions are making explicit the implicit environmental imperatives contained in their traditional scriptures, doctrines and ethical precepts. ECOFaith mobilizes and supports their efforts by providing expert consultants and a comprehensive process for energy efficient design, planning, building and renovation, water-saving landscaping, and educational activities for diverse congregations.

The momentum toward the creation of an environmental coalition of diverse faith communities in Santa Barbara was seeded during the planning and implementation of a Faith and Politics Summit on June 3, 2007, organized by Karin Quimby, District Representative for Congressperson Lois Capps. One of the major topics of the summit was the environment.

The momentum built further when Rep. Capps invited faith leaders from her Congressional district to meet with the Democratic Congressional leadership as part of a special Faith Day in Washington DC. At that meeting, several prominent members of Congress eloquently articulated the relationship between religion, politics, and the environment. Following these talks, Ed Bastian asked the California Central Coast faith leaders if they would support the formation of an interfaith environmental coalition when they returned back home. Everyone in the room replied in the affirmative.

On February 13, 2008, Karin Quimby and Ed Bastian convened a meeting hosted by Steve Jacobsen at Goleta Presbyterian Church. The meeting was attended by about 16 people representing a cross section of Santa Barbara Faith Communities. They supported the formation of a coalition and about six participants agreed to meet again to draft a mission statement and action plan for the coalition. In this initial phase close to 20 faith communities joined the coalition, including three historically black churches, Jewish and Muslim congregations, and Catholic and Protestant denominations. We continue to broaden this coalition to include all faith communities in Santa Barbara.

Following is a list of the faith communities that have joined the coalition. Others have been contacted and we expect the coalition to grow as we expand our program.

| | |
|--|---|
| Islamic Society of Santa Barbara | I.V. Minyan & Community Shul of Montecito and Santa Barbara |
| St. Andrews Presbyterian Church | Congregation B'nai B'rith |
| Free Methodist Church | Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church |
| Second Baptist Church | First Presbyterian Church |
| New Friendship Baptist Church | Grace Lutheran Church |
| Holy Cross Catholic Church | Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara |
| Greater Santa Barbara Clergy Association | Interfaith Initiative of Santa Barbara |
| La Casa de Maria | Montecito Covenant Church |
| Lewis Chapel CME Church | Santa Barbara Friends Meeting |
| Westmont College | Church of Scientology |

In June 2008, ECOFaith received \$66,300 from the Bower Foundation in Santa Barbara. This enabled us to hire the support staff and experts necessary to develop our project. ECOFaith selected four congregations to undergo the process charted by our mission statement and we have successfully completed these four pilot projects.

6. PILOT PROJECTS

Working together, we have developed inspirational models to lead the larger Santa Barbara faith community in their efforts to become environmentally sustainable. The first stage in our process has been to create four pilot projects. Coalition participants submitted proposals of what their congregation had done so far and what it wanted to do. From these proposals we selected four faith communities in order to focus our initial efforts. We selected them based on diversity of denomination and faith as well as age and makeup of congregation. The four pilot congregations are: Grace Lutheran Church, Holy Cross Catholic Church, Second Baptist Church, and the Islamic Society of Santa Barbara.

Our aim was to:

1. Green Faith Buildings

- A. Complete energy audit and building and grounds assessment
- B. Develop long term plan with priorities, timelines and budget
- C. Assess eventual level of environmental sustainability
- D. Plan for recycling, reusing, conserving
- E. Institute incremental steps for achieving this goal
- F. Identify funding Requirements
- G. Plan for Fundraising

2. Education

- A. Assess education needs
- B. Form green team within the faith community
- C. Create activities to educate and inspire congregation
- D. Develop print and audiovisual materials
- E. Develop sustainability goals for entire congregation

Work on these projects was greatly enhanced by the experience of other local congregations like the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara.

7. ECOFAITH PROCESS

We developed the following process to work with each individual congregation.

I. Step One

Date:

- ECOFaith Leadership meets with the leaders of the congregation. At this time, we discuss the history and objectives of the project and the ways the ECOFaith staff and the faith community will work together
- ECOFaith staff provides the faith community with a detail description of the process from beginning to end.
- Parties agree to set the date for a full meeting between ECOFaith Staff and congregation "Green Team."

- ECOFaith follows up with a letter of agreement, and coordinate the scheduling of the meetings.

II. Step Two

Date:

- All ECOFaith Staff meets with members of congregation's Green Team for introductions and to discuss program overview and design.
- ECOFaith Staff and congregation Green Team form breakout groups to schedule follow-up meetings at this time around the following tasks:
 - Scriptures and inspirational environmental documents—Pastor, Green Team members, ECOFaith education coordinator
 - Educational Materials and activities for the entire congregation—Pastor, Green Team members, ECOFaith education coordinator
 - Buildings and grounds
 - Energy audit—Energy professional
 - Planning for renovations and improvements—Green Architects
 - Landscaping—Green Architects
 - Green purchasing program—Energy professional
 - Timelines and budget—ECOFaith Director

These five subject areas comprise the contents of the Project Binder containing detailed plans on energy conservation and environmentally sustainable improvements

III. Step Three--Breakout Meetings

Dates:

- ECOFaith Staff schedules separate meetings with their counterparts in each congregation.
- Each sub-group “partners” with their counterparts to work through their respective tasks.
- ECOFaith staff completes drafts for binder.
- Draft binder is compiled for review by congregation.

IV. Step Four

Dates:

In preparation for this meeting, ECOFaith staff and green team members produce the Project Binder containing the following major categories. This meeting reviews the draft binder.

Based on the results, a final draft is produced with the following chapters:

- Index/Table of Contents
- Description of each faith community and the foundations for their specific ECOFaith vision. This section will also articulate their mission for buildings, grounds, and congregational participation. (ECOFaith education coordinator and Pastor)
- Educational materials for each congregation (ECOFaith education coordinator)
- Buildings and Grounds
- Green Purchasing Program

Respective ECOFaith Staff and Green Team members continue to schedule meetings to complete work on the Project Binder.

Expert contractors provide cost estimates for the suggested goals in Step 3.

V. Step Five

Date:

ECOfaith Staff and Green Team present completed Project Binder to the entire congregation.

VI. Step Six

Date:

Congregation commits to and action plan, a timeline of educational efforts, and priorities of building and grounds renovations along with green purchasing changes.

8. WORKING IN FAITH COMMUNITIES

In establishing ECOfaith Santa Barbara, we discovered that many faith communities were eager for practical, substantive information about how to make their buildings more energy efficient. They also wanted resources to help educate their congregations on how to live more environmentally sustainable lives.

There are some considerable benefits and some hurdles to overcome when working with faith communities. The challenges include working with clergy who are always juggling numerous responsibilities and frequently are unavailable. Establishing a strong relationship with the leader of the congregation is imperative for success of the program, for in most cases, s/he will be the one who drives the process, sets the agenda for energy efficiency and education, elicits the congregation members' participation, produces the sermons upon which the theological basis of the work depends, and motivates the congregation through her/his commitment to the process over time. Although committed lay leaders may certainly provide such leadership, without the clergy member's commitment to the process, the project will likely be less successful.

Each congregation has a different decision-making structure as well. It is often a small executive board that provides the initial approval for moving ahead with the ECOfaith program. They also respond initially to the energy audit suggestions and the sustainability plan for the building. The plan then must be approved by the entire congregation. This overall process can take some time as these bodies often do not meet regularly, or have an annual meeting for visioning and decision-making. In addition, as in any organization, there are members who may have competing agendas for the congregation. The faith leader again has a critical voice in this process and again we emphasize the importance of having the clergy person fully engaged in the ECOfaith process from the outset.

Another challenge is how to deliver education materials on a widespread and usable basis to different faith communities. Once again, the faith leader is crucial in providing leadership by creating a series of sermons on the topic of environmentalism or "creation care." Working with congregational education leaders (Sunday School teachers and the like) has been challenging insofar as each congregation has various systems of educational opportunities for congregants; some provide education across the spectrum: child, teen, and adult classes or prayer groups. Others have just adult education. Finding or creating denominationally specific environmental materials for the wide array of congregational needs remains a challenge.

Moreover, congregational faith educators rarely possess a sophisticated environmental knowledge base, although they may have the desire to address these topics. Most faith educators are volunteers, so the more readily we deliver appropriate material to them, the more likely it will find its way into the curriculum. Because there is so much new information developing around sustainable practices, the information load is often overwhelming. It is imperative to have an environmental resource person on call as issues arise and answers to questions are needed.

The main objective of the educational component of ECOFaith is to introduce congregants to the need to “care for creation.” Whether the educational efforts are large or small, the change of consciousness that occurs when congregants begin to grapple with environmental questions within a faith-based context often leads to heightened awareness and continued interest in changing daily behaviors. As we know, even a slight shift of consciousness among a group of people has the potential to build into a culture-changing movement. This potential for collective consciousness raising and subsequent collective action is the profound promise of working with faith communities.

The solution to the educational component of ECOFaith’s mission is to provide appropriate educational materials to each faith-based congregation, which the congregation can then adapt to its own needs. This will require either the development of these materials or the procurement of already developed materials. Providing actual booklets to congregations would increase the possibility of garnering more participation from the congregation.

Finally, the more congregants who agree to participate on the “green team” the more successful our program will be, since “green team” members undergo the entire process from identifying the energy efficiency opportunities in their place of worship, to deciding how to deliver the educational materials to the congregation. Methods on how to involve more than a few “green team” members in this process remains an open question.

9. RESULTS

We have now completed the Phase I – Pilot Project for ECOFaith. The results of this phase are detailed in the special website we created. (www.ECOFaith-SB.org) Although the website was not budgeted in the original proposal and grant, we felt it was an essential component for charting our progress and creating the future for ECOFaith.

This website contains a comprehensive report on the activities of ECOFaith including the progress made by each pilot faith community and the metrics for the CO2 emissions eliminated by each congregation. In order to save paper, we refer the reader to the website section called Projects and Metrics.

10. WEBSITE (www.ecofaith-sb.edu)

The website for ECOFaith-SB contains the following categories.

1. Preamble & Mission
2. Members
3. Pilot Projects
4. Educational Materials
5. Schedule of meetings and events
6. Links to other great information resources
7. ECOFaith Metrics
8. Bren School ECOFaith Project

11. METRICS

At the conclusion of our pilot project, we were asked by our funder, the JS Bower Foundation, to provide metrics for the energy and CO₂ savings accomplished to date and anticipated into the future by ECOFaith and its partnering organizations. Since we did not have the technical expertise to produce a credible metrics report, we began meeting with emerging energy experts in the Santa Barbara area to find the right person or team to fulfill this goal. This process led us to the Bren School for Environmental Science and Management. Fortunately, a team of four graduate students selected ECOFaith as the target organization for their Masters Project.

The Bren ECOFaith team has completed a preliminary metrics report on the ECOFaith Pilot project and we refer the reader to our website to review this report. It is also appended to this report.

The following chart provides a summary of impact of ECOFaith projects. It shows the total lbs of CO₂e reduced annually through greening of worship buildings and greening of congregations through pledged actions:

| | Grace Lutheran | Islamic Society | Second Baptist | Holy Cross | Totals |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|---------|
| Worship Buildings | 506 | 9,840* | 3,061 | 591 | 13,998 |
| Pledged Actions | 30,129 | 29,791 | 19,117 | 60,440 | 139,477 |
| Totals | 30,635 | 39,631 | 22,178 | 61,031 | 153,475 |

* Conservative estimate of CO₂e savings for a LEED-certified religious building over a conventional building

12. BREN SCHOOL ECOFAITH TEAM

Following are the goal as stated by the Bren ECOFaith team Masters Project.

The principal objective of the Bren team project is to develop tools that will help ECOFaith enhance the impact of its programs. We will accomplish this by first reviewing ECOFaith's existing projects and education programs and working with congregation leaders to develop an improved process and toolkit. We will provide recommendations that work within the opportunities and constraints of the institutions to fit their abilities and needs. Our process will help ECOFaith congregations design feasible, high-impact projects, involve congregation members, and measure progress—thereby reducing their reliance on expensive outside consultants.

By the end of our project, we will provide our client with the following:

- A report that:
 - Quantifies the water, energy, and greenhouse gas reductions achieved in the four pilot projects
 - Reviews the education component of the four pilot projects by conducting focus groups and a survey to highlight program successes and opportunities
 - Assesses ECOFaith's current process based on both the experience of the pilot projects and congregation leader feedback
 - Recommends measures to enhance ECOFaith's process to better serve its members' needs
- A toolkit for future projects which includes:
 - A refined process that other ECOFaith congregations can use to green their worship buildings and congregations
 - A software tool specifically tailored to the needs and challenges of faith-based institutions, that helps congregations establish baseline GHG inventory for their worship buildings and helps them conduct a cost-benefit analysis to see which actions to take to reduce greenhouse gases

In order to accomplish the above objectives, we first plan on synthesizing the quantitative and qualitative results of the actions ECOFaith members have already implemented through their four existing pilot projects. This will provide ECOFaith with a metrics-based report that can help them assess their progress and that they can communicate to existing and potential funders. To this end, we will interview the congregation leaders and relevant congregation members about what actions they have implemented and gather resource consumption information from utility bills. We will then review current literature for the best methods to convert these data into accurate calculations of greenhouse gas emissions and conduct a statistical analysis that will determine to what extent their actions have resulted in reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. In our interviews, we will also seek to understand ECOFaith members' goals, priorities, constraints, and challenges in implementing the ECOFaith projects. The results of these interviews will help us showcase ECOFaith's successes as well as generate recommendations to make its process even more effective in the future.

Another important aspect of ECOFaith's mission is its goal of promoting a theologically-based motivation for environmental concern within the faith community. Its main vehicle for

achieving this aim is its set of education plans, each grounded in the particular faith tradition of the different ECOFaith religious communities. Therefore, in order to develop a comprehensive picture of ECOFaith's existing work, we must also review the organization's educational initiatives. To get a sense of the goals and priorities of the education programs, we will conduct one-on-one scoping interviews with the congregation and education leaders. The results from the scoping interviews will help us create a protocol for conducting focus groups with both congregation members who participated in the education programs and those who did not. The focus groups will explore how faith plays into opinions and feelings of responsibility toward the environment, reasons individuals chose to participate or not participate in environmental education activities, how education programs have changed members' knowledge and interest in environmental issues, how that knowledge or interest did or did not translate into behavior, and other ways that the institution's environmental stance affected its congregation members. If time permits, we will also conduct a simple survey of the congregations at large, based on common themes that emerged during the focus groups. The survey would allow us to create a more comprehensive picture of the congregations and could be conducted following weekly church services in order to improve response rates and time. Not only will the focus group and survey process allow us to examine ECOFaith's existing education programs, but it will also help us develop a methodology for ECOFaith to measure the progress of its own education initiatives in the future.

Based on our analysis of the existing ECOFaith projects and process, we will generate a set of recommendations to share with ECOFaith. After incorporating the organization's feedback about our recommendations, we will develop a new step-by-step process that will help ECOFaith enhance the impact of its future initiatives. As a part of this process, we will develop a software tool that will provide ECOFaith members with a list of feasible greenhouse gas-reducing actions tailored to the needs and constraints of faith-based institutions. Based on user inputted data, the tool will suggest the most efficient options for change given a specific budget, or the budget necessary to achieve a specific level of greenhouse gas reduction.

Communication:

We plan on communicating updates and fostering conversation through a blog on our website. This blog can be found at: <http://brenecofaith.wordpress.com>. Beginning in the fall quarter, we will update this blog once every two to four weeks, asking questions and inviting comments. We will email you after we post so that you can easily access the post and participate in the ongoing conversation. Please feel free to email us whenever you have questions or recommendations for going forward. All four of us can be reached at: ecofaith@bren.ucsb.edu.

For more information, please visit our website at www.bren.ucsb.edu/~ecofaith/about.html where we have posted the full proposal. The proposal includes a literature review of the religious motivation to engage in environmentalism, a sociological perspective on environmental education, an outline of current green-building practices and policies, and an assessment of current carbon calculators and tools for religious organizations.

Bren Team Members

Christine Chen · Stephanie Dolmat-Connell · Jessica Golman · Sarah Siedschlag

Actions and Deliverables

The overarching goal of our project is to enhance the ECOFaith process for greening churches and their congregations and to provide recommendations fitting the needs and abilities of faith-based institutions. To accomplish this, we will look at the planned actions and implemented changes for the four pilot projects in terms of building efficiency and member education. We will use this information to:

- Quantify and review the actions taken and resulting GHG emissions reduced for each of the four pilot projects
- Develop a toolkit that will help the organization in planning, implementing and evaluating future projects

13. NEXT STEPS FOR ECOFAITH

With the formal completion of the ECOFaith Pilot project, we will now begin to expand the project to include the maximum number of the approximately 135 faith communities in greater Santa Barbara. This planning process will begin with the presentation of this report to the four pilot faith communities, then to the twenty-one founding members of ECOFaith, and finally to an expanded community of new ECOFaith members. We will form an executive planning team to create a strategic plan, budget, and timeline for the future development of ECOFaith Santa Barbara.