

January 2024



Green Leaders for the Community by working together

The UCiM congregation decided in April 2023 to replace our aging heating system with a Geothermal Ground Source Heat Pump.¹ This **GREEN OPTION** will provide us with reliable heating and cooling and enable us to take action to address climate change.

Now is the time we need you to make your financial commitment so we can plan with confidence to install the system this summer. Many have already made their donation and/or pledge. THANK YOU. As of December 31, 2023, \$141,322 has been donated and pledged by individuals, along with \$70,000 of donated or promised Grants, plus fundraising taking us to **\$211,077**. **We are well on our way** to the estimated total project cost of \$414,000². (see below for more financial details)

Your response before February 29, 2024 would help us make good decisions. We will continue to accept donations and pledges after this date. See the attached Donation/Pledge form for more information or visit ucim.org/greening.

Why now and why this option?

The current heating system must be replaced: it is already past its “best before date”. Rising temperatures mean that without adding air conditioning the building will be increasingly uncomfortable, limiting its use, even in spring and fall.

The upfront costs of geothermal appear greater, but, there are greening incentive grants and zero interest bridge financing available for this option. This makes it competitive with natural gas, for which there are NO incentive grants. And, the long term ongoing operating costs of geothermal are lower than any other option. (see financial details below)

With this conversion we will

- ensure our vital worship and community outreach can continue,
- reduce our carbon emissions for heating and cooling to ZERO,
- be leaders which others in our community will follow and respect,
- generate additional green energy for our province, and,
- practice our faith commitment to live with respect in God's creation.

¹ Learn more about geothermal systems and the UCiM project at ucim.org/greening

² This is subject to final tenders for installation.



What is being done?

The Greening Task Groups are actively involved in securing the necessary funding and other details to successfully complete the project:

- 3 fundraising events (Time and Talent Auction, Concert and Walk-a-thon) will happen in the next months
- Grant proposals to government, private Foundations and church sources have been sent and others are in development
- Ongoing conversations with all three levels of government continue
- Confirmed availability of interest free loan from The United Church of Canada
- Approaching building users and broader community for financial support
- Scheduling for final engineering design, followed by tendering and firmer cost estimates
- Thanking financial contributors

Want to get involved?

Share your resources to ensure our success by becoming a supporter before February 29, 2024. Volunteers are still needed to: work on the fundraisers, help with communications and marketing, speak to others about the project, plan the celebration party.

Need more information?

Any member of the Steering Committee, and, UCiM's Board is available to talk with you at any time. (Their names are below.) On Sunday, February 4, 2024 there will be a Q&A forum immediately following the service.

The Greening Steering Committee has produced resources providing more details on all aspects of the project, such as Greening Accountability Report, Green Leaders for the Community: Installing Geothermal Heating and Cooling, Heating/Cooling Options Report, and Heat Pumps for Dummies, among others. These resources are available on our website (ucim/greening.org) or through the office.

Faith is hope in action

We are an Easter people. We believe in the power of community to see past death to the hope of resurrection. For the sake of our Earth home and future generations, and in response to the love of God, let's step up and do the right thing.

Erin Crawford, Greening Steering Committee Chair

Financial Situation (as of December 31, 2023)

Project Costs*

Feasibility	\$ 9,225
Design and Oversight	\$ 17,500
Installation	\$ 90,000
Heat Pumps	\$ 242,500
Contingency	\$ 50,000
Fundraising	\$ 5,000
TOTAL	\$ 414,225

*based on 2023 estimates, includes GST

Revenue

Received or Promised

Grants	\$ 70,000
Donations	
2022	\$ 9,225
2023	\$ 108,219
Pledges	\$ 18,778
Fundraising	\$ 4,855

To be secured

Grants	\$ 100,000
Fundraising	\$ 15,000
Donations	\$ 69,370
TOTAL	\$ 414,225

Data presented to Congregation in April 2023

(from Heating and Cooling Task Group report)

System	Cost*	Cost with known incentives
Geothermal/Ground Source Heat Pumps	\$349,000	\$289,000
Electric Heating/Cooling	\$242,000	\$232,000
Natural Gas Heating/Electric Cooling	\$274,000	\$274,000

*these figures do not include GST and do not factor in long term operating costs

Greening Steering Committee and Task Groups

Name	Role
Liz Bachmann	Fundraising TG (Grants)
Mike Balshaw	Steering Cte/Engagement TG Convenor
Bev Beck	Communications TG
Joy Bissoon	Fundraising TG
Jeri Bjornson	Communications TG
Jane Bullied	Steering Cte/Communication TG
Archie Campbell	Construction TG
Susan Campbell	Steering Cte/Communication TG
Erin Crawford	Steering Cte
Caryn Douglas	Steering Cte/Fundraising TG/Communication TG
Dane Dwarka	Communications TG
Diane Dwarka	Steering Cte/Trustees Liaison
Ron Eros	Steering Cte/Fundraising TG Convenor
Pat Goss	Fundraising TG (Grants)
Gary Hyde	Finance TG
Ali Karim	Fundraising TG (Grants)
Peter Kidd	Steering Cte/Construction TG Convenor
Ron Kirby	Finance TG
Dominic Lussier	Construction TG
Joe Makumi	Construction TG
Mike McIlrath	Finance TG
Margaret-Anne Michalsky	Steering Cte/Communication TG Convenor
Julie Nash	Steering Cte/Fundraising TG
Doug Purdey	Fundraising TG
Rudy Ramchandar	Steering Cte/Fundraising TG

Enclosed with this letter you will find the Pledge Form. Other information is available at ucim.org/greening or by contacting the office (ucm@ucim.org 204.256.7002)