

We have just received confirmation of a Louisiana grant for the installation of solar panels on our church. Our plan is to follow up on the construction of our building with a campaign (Stage 2) to raise approximately \$35,000 for the installation of panels on the roof of our church and our annex. This grant will provide \$51,000.00 for solar panel installation. These panels will cover the roof of our sanctuary with 66 panels (covering 87% of its roof space). We still need about \$15,000 to complete this project but trust that the help of our members and friends will meet this goal. (*Details of the Joseph Priestley campaign for solar power at CCUU will soon be announced* .)

Since we are already moving into the solar arena CCUU may well extend this project to the addition of panels on the roof of our annex--at a projected cost of less than \$20,000. Doing so would provide us with sufficient solar panel coverage to meet all of our electrical costs during the course of year. (And, if we can change the laws maybe Entergy will have to pay us for the electricity we provide to them!!!)

The members of CCUU have carefully lifted themselves up after the levees broke and flooded our city, many of our homes, and our church. Although it has taken 5 1/2 years our members have carefully planned for the best future they can hope for. They paid close attention to putting up as GREEN a building as they can. Although our city is slowly becoming a solar city the grants made available to homeowners could not be accessed by religious institutions. When a new grant was offered for commercial buildings, and we were belatedly made aware of a 24-hour window of opportunity to apply for this grant, Howard Mielke quickly collected the necessary data. We submitted the grant request just 30 minutes before the grant deadline. Although we missed on the first allocation additional funds were provided later. We were then approved by the State of Louisiana and this was quickly followed by an approval from the Department of Energy. Mielke carefully guided us through this entire grant process.

The installation of these solar panels will follow our April 10 Building Dedication. Our many friends in the UUA are invited to join us for this celebration or to join us in worship whenever you happen to be in the New Orleans area.

P.S. The picture shown below was taken on February 20, 2011.

We are excited to be nearing the dedication of our building on the 10th of April.

