

## **Resolution Submitted for Diocesan Convention, 2015**

**Proposer of Resolution:** The Rev. Canon Jeff Gollhofer

**Parish or Organization:** Committee on the Environment of the Social Concerns Commission

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**Title of Resolution(s):** **Conversion to Green, Renewable Energy**

**Text of Resolution(s):**

Whereas, the 237<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention (2013) passed resolution “Auditing Energy Use in Church Buildings,” urging member congregations to work with the Diocesan Property Support Committee in auditing energy use in their church buildings; and

Whereas, subsequent to that resolution, sixteen congregations have conducted energy audits, many with the generous support of the Mid-Hudson Executive Committee, bringing the Diocesan total, to date, to forty-two; and

Whereas, these audits are a first and necessary step in considering the transition to renewable energy in our church buildings:

Resolved: That the 239<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of New York asks every congregation to renew its commitment to conduct an approved energy audit with all due speed; and on that foundation, be it further

Resolved: That this 239<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of New York asks diocesan and parish organizations to make resources available to congregations to help them pursue energy audits; and be it further

Resolved: That this 239<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of New York asks every congregation, with the assistance of Property Support and the Committee on the Environment, to develop a “self-study” plan for the conversion to renewable energy sources within the next ten years.

### *Explanation*

Humankind has never faced a crisis as urgent or as serious as climate change.. This crisis already challenges many of the core values on which our political, economic, and social systems are established. For the Church, the implications of this crisis raise questions about sustainability (financial and environmental) that we must begin to address in a substantial way now. Results of completed energy audits already show that congregations can significantly reduce their energy usage, their operating costs, and their greenhouse gas

emissions – all at the same time. Once our energy wastage is identified and actual energy needs are known, then we are in a better position to take the next step toward converting to renewable energy systems. These actions will both transform and stabilize our life together in the church, making our church buildings examples of the kind of “sacred space” that present and future generations will recognize and call their own.