

["Greening our Meeting Community", April 23rd](#). The Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT) sponsored an Adult Religious Education program that provided participants a chance to think about and discuss efforts to reduce resource consumption and increase energy efficiency both in the Meetinghouse and our individual homes. Facilitated by Gary Gillespie and John McKusick, the session began with silent worship and consideration of Query 12 of BYM Faith and Practice on the Environment. Gary introduced a simple assessment developed by Canadian Friends on becoming a "Five Star Meetinghouse". The House and Grounds Committee at Homewood completed the assessment in advance of the session. While Homewood has made tremendous strides in energy conservation and impact reduction, there seems to be another generation of opportunities for improvement that could be done starting with a full building energy and resource audit.

The discussion then moved toward personal and home concerns that the participants had, e.g., what to do with old electronic media?, who are those neighbors that BGE compares me to?, and is converting to solar really feasible for me? Gary and his spouse, Sarah Bur, shared their inspiring success story of installing solar panels on their home which now allows them to meet about 85% of their need for electricity. This includes running a wood pellet stove as a primary heat source.

We also talked about the larger picture including the opportunity to pass the Clean Jobs Initiative in 2019 setting a standard of 50% renewable energy in Maryland by 2030 and ramping up jobs and investment opportunities in the renewable energy industry. This would make Maryland a national leader and set a great example for other states in the Mid Atlantic region. We closed with silent worship.

In the next few months at Homewood, look for opportunities to responsibly recycle electronic media, a home energy workshop, and a kickoff for the Clean Jobs Initiative Campaign. GOAT - Polly Heninger, Carol Beck, Gary Gillespie, and John McKusick - welcomes your ideas, suggestions, and energy!