

## **Wildwood Mennonite Church's Solar Installation**

In recent years WMC had become more environmentally conscious: the installation of LED lighting throughout the church; a community garden started on vacant land adjacent to the church by individuals within the church community; joining Mennonite Creation Care Network; studying *Every Creature Singing* curriculum in Sunday school; installing bike racks; and smaller environmental projects.

To reduce our GHG emissions even further we started looking at a possible solar installation. The province had a 20% rebate program (which it would later cut) and we wanted to act in a timely manner, so, in May 2017 we invited consultations and estimates from several solar power companies. In March 2018, we had an evening presentation to interested WMC members from one of the solar companies.

After a positive response here, we presented a proposal at our June 2018 Semi Annual meeting to purchase an array of a 10 kw/30 panel installation, to be funded through pledges from members.

Pledges were collected within a few weeks in summer of 2018, in time to benefit from the 20% SaskPower rebate for solar installations. Thirty solar panels were installed in January 2019.

It was estimated that this system would provide 61% of our electrical consumption in a 12 month period with a ~\$20,000 cost after the 20% rebate and a 10 year payback. More importantly, it aligned with our values of justice in reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. In its brief life thus far, this array has reduced our CO2 emissions by about 21,500 kgs, the equivalent of planting about 650 trees.