

Greening FMC - December 2023

The Trustees Committee has been working on reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions at 5 Longfellow Park for over two decades. Most of our lights are now energy-efficient LEDs. We refurbished the windows in the Friends Center and Meeting House, and now have new storm windows on both buildings. Some of that effort was supported with state and city grants. We also are getting 100% green electricity from the Cambridge Community Electricity program. (Many other local communities like Arlington and Somerville have similar programs that residents can join: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/municipal-aggregation>)

Our next goal is to reduce fossil fuel use in our facilities. The first project is to replace the rather old and inefficient oil furnace in the Meeting House with a modern electric heat pump system. This eliminates our use of one fossil fuel and allows us to use 100% green electricity to heat and cool the Meeting House with no climate-altering greenhouse gas emissions.

We hired an engineering firm to develop a design that makes use of the existing ducting system and has minimal impact on the interior space. We took this to four contractors and have found one who has good references and we feel confident with. . Another benefit of the chosen system is that it has a very good air filtration system designed to reduce pathogens in the air and also adjusts outside makeup air based on occupancy. These two features are an important tool in providing a safer environment by reducing aerosol spread of pathogens. Finally the heat pump system will provide cooling if we need it.

The total cost for the new system is approximately \$130,000 {to be refined}. However there is about \$25,000 available in state and federal grants to offset the cost. The Trustees Committee also has some carryover funds available intended to be used on long-term improvements such as this, but FMC will probably also need to invest some of the unrestricted funds to complete the project. The Trustees Committee is in the process of refining these figures and will have more specific numbers fairly soon. We hope to be able to do this work in the Spring of 2024.

There will be a Forum on Sunday January 7 to discuss this project and the greening of FMC.

If you have any questions please contact one of us.

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Trustees Committee