



Green Notes

Green Note January 16 2026: Heat Pump edition!

1. Welcome to the first Green Note of 2026. At St Hilda's we have begun the year with a powerful action that underlines our commitment to greening the parish and the community, with the installation of heat pumps in the Sanctuary, downstairs rooms and offices, and the Hall. Carson Refrigeration and RJS Electrical carried out the work in the second week of January with excellent dispatch, professionalism and consideration for those in the building who were still trying to perform their normal tasks.

You will see some visible changes with the new equipment outside and indoors, and hope you agree that these are fairly unobtrusive. Inside, you may appreciate the consistent heat, set at a steady and sustainable 20°C. At intervals over the next year we expect to be passing on good news about reductions in St Hilda's Hydro bill, as the heat pumps produce warmth much more efficiently than the old baseboard heaters (most of which are now disconnected). The heat pumps also have the capacity to cool, which may come in handy next summer.

Very many thanks go to everyone who contributed in various ways to the heat pump project, and especially to Mike Starr and Bruce Pond who organized and oversaw the whole operation from start to finish. We also thank the Rector, Wardens, Parish Council, and congregation for their unflinching support and encouragement. The project is costing about \$50,000; we are very grateful to the donors who, so far, have provided \$22,600 towards the costs. If you would like to contribute money towards the project, please just include it with your offering in the usual ways (envelopes, e transfers, PAD, etc.), and mark it "Heat Pumps."



2. For those still in New Year resolution-making mode, here is the link to an article from a year ago, titled "Everyone has an Impact": how to start reducing your environmental footprint

<https://www.theguardian.com/wellness/2025/jan/30/how-reduce-environmental-footprint>

The article lists and describes in more detail the following steps that individuals can take to help care for creation:

- Know that you can make a difference
- Reduce, reuse, recycle
- Check where your money is going
- Look at what you're eating
- Unplug
- Be efficient
- Speak up
- Vote

There's nothing radically new here, but good reminders.

3. Finally, if you are looking for a way to speak up locally, consider filling out a survey in response to the 2025-29 Sunshine Coast Community Forest Operating Plan update at <https://www.sccf.ca/forest-operations>. SCCF says, "*We invite you to consider forest values and how you prioritize them, seeking to understand your experience and expectations of forest stewardship as a community member of the Sunshine Coast. This information will influence the Operating Plan Guidelines which describe our planning approach generally, and are not tied to any specific area. This feedback will also be considered in our strategic planning.*" This is your chance to express your preferences for local forest management as the SCCF sets its priorities for the next few years. The survey takes about ten minutes to complete, and is open until January 31st.

Many thanks, as always, for your concern and support for greening the parish and caring for the environment.

Christine