

Immanuel's Creation Care News January 21, 2021

Recycling Challenge

Happy New Year! In spite of all our challenges right now, December was a record-breaking month for collecting plastic bags and films. You brought 136 pounds to the bins in December, bringing our total to 416 donated pounds. That is a lot of plastic bags! **WE ARE ONLY 84 POUNDS AWAY FROM OUR GOAL!**

Thank you Immanuel members and friends for your commitment to caring for God's creation in this way. Your efforts are keeping these toxic plastic bags and films out of our rivers, oceans, and bellies of wildlife. Then, the Trex Company will responsibly use these bags to create a bench for our outdoor sacred space.

We will probably reach our goal in the next week or so. Please stay tuned to what's next regarding these plastics.

— Denise Freeland

Solar Update

The Immanuel Facilities Group and Creation Care Action Team continue to explore solar power at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill and how best to fund a solar installation. One possibility is a partnership with Virginia Theological Seminary. Last winter, a small group from Immanuel met with Dean Markham to discuss the possibilities – this meeting took place around the same time that IPSun Solar performed its assessment for Immanuel-on-the-Hill. (This assessment was presented at a Creation Care forum hour last August.) The Dean was enthusiastic about installing solar at VTS; but within weeks of that meeting, the COVID Pandemic emerged and solar discussions were temporarily shelved.

Thanks to some conversations between our Father Randy and Dean Markham this fall, a small group from Immanuel, representatives from IPSun Solar and a representative of VTS met virtually in early December to resume the solar conversation and discuss possible ways to fund solar installations both on the Zabriskie Chapel/Parish Hall building as well as potentially on some VTS buildings. Stay tuned for further developments!

— Julie Bruns