

# Green Sanctuary

## Saving Energy and Dollars for TUUC

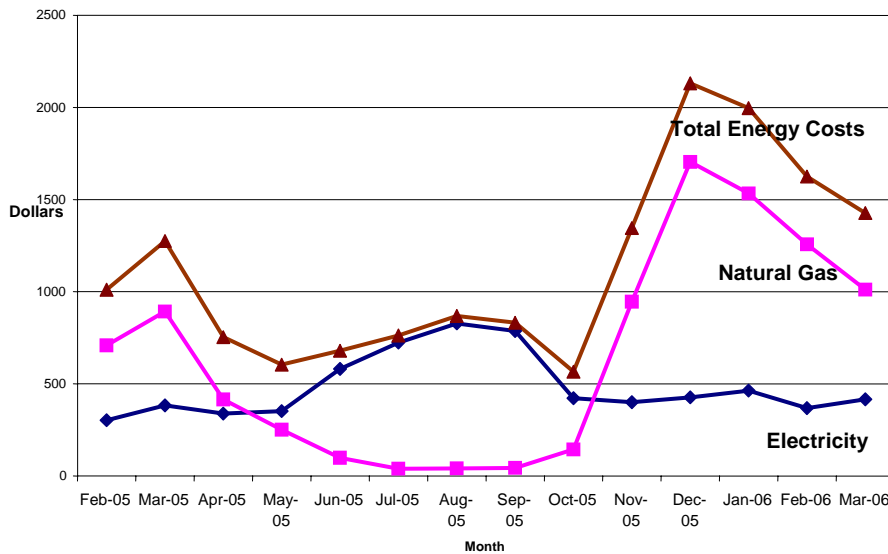
*Catherine Morris, Outreach Council head*

One of the first steps toward becoming a green sanctuary is to analyze our current energy use and environmentally friendly practices and determine how we can do better – how we can use less energy and reduce our environmental impact as a congregation. The easiest way to start is to look at our energy bills.

TUUC spent about \$14,000 on electricity and natural gas last year. But it is likely to get much higher even if we continue to use the same amount. We have already experienced an increase of 50-80% in this winter's monthly heating costs because of the rise in natural gas prices. And everyone has been reading about the projected 72% increase in electricity rates that might be coming in June of this year. Our annual energy costs for April 06 to March 07 could be as high as \$18,000. What are we getting for our money?

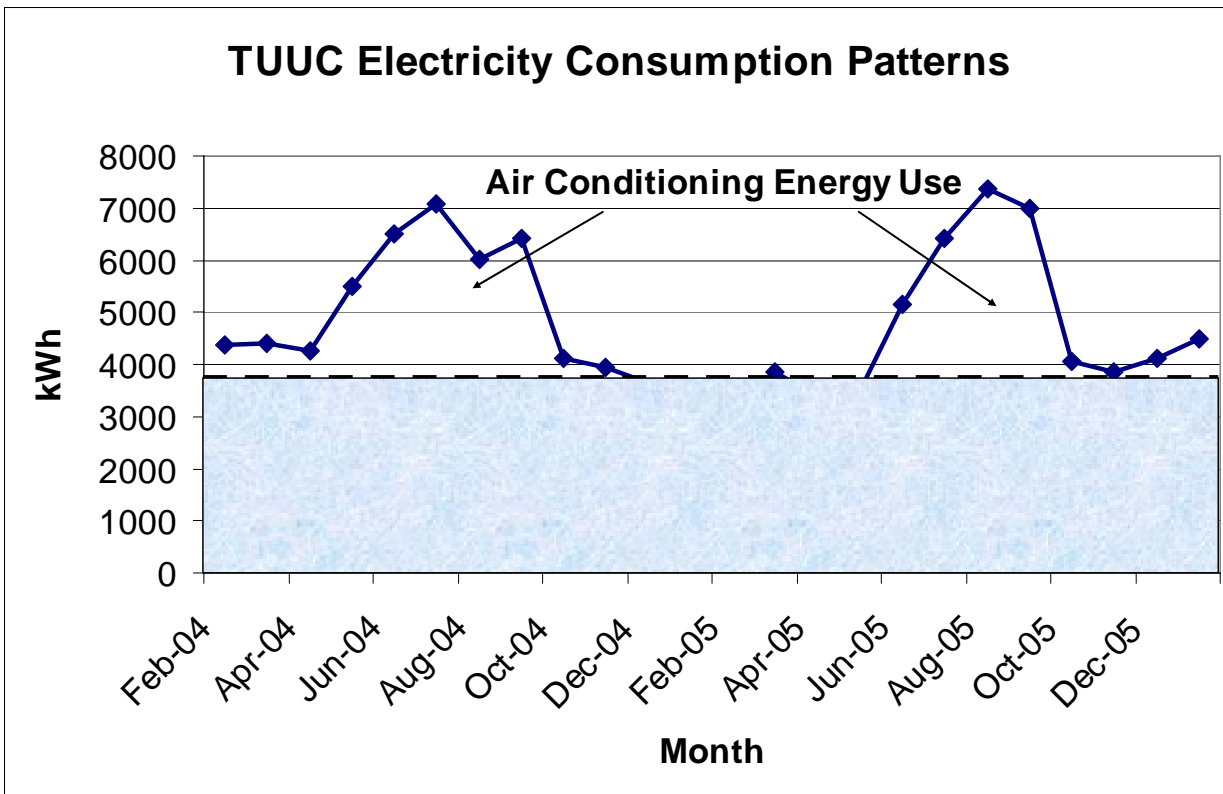
Most of our energy dollars go to heating the building. The next largest cost is air conditioning as you can see below.

**TUUC Monthly Energy Costs**



The rest of our energy use is still very high (about 4000 kilowatt-hours per month compared to about 500 kWh for a typical household electricity bill) and includes the lighting and fans, office and audio visual equipment, refrigerators and freezers and water heating. See graph two.

## TUUC Electricity Consumption Patterns



Our new furnace should help reduce our consumption because it is more efficient. But there is a lot more that we can do. To begin with, we can make sure that our programmable thermostats work the way they are intended by automatically lowering the temperatures when no one is using the building. When we override the settings, we lose money, waste a limited natural resource and cause unnecessary pollution and contribute to global warming. We can make sure our air ducts are insulated and our windows are caulked and sealed against air infiltration.

Over the next month, the Green Sanctuaries Committee will be conducting a more comprehensive environmental audit to determine what we can do and how much it might save us. We will present a list of proposed actions to the Operations Team and the Congregation and will be looking for your support in making TUUC an official Green Sanctuary. Watch for more information in every Threshold.

### TUUC CALENDAR FOR MAY

1	Caring Committee	10 am	Meditation Group	7 pm	
	Meditation Group	7 pm	Board Meeting	7:30 pm	
2	Afternoon Book Group	2 pm	9	ARE Class	7:30 pm
	Communications Com.	7 pm		Rental: Horticulture Soc.	7 pm
3	Committee on Ministry	7:30 pm	10	ARE Class	7:30 pm
	ARE Class	7:30 pm		Evening Book Group	7:30 pm
4	Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm	11	Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm
5	Men's Breakfast Group	8:30 am	13	TUUC Singles Potluck	6 pm
	Movies with the Minister	7:30 pm	14	Gallery Reception	10:30 am
6	Baltimore Spring Tour	10 am	15	Meditation Group	7 pm
	Coming of Age Pizza Party	6 pm	16	ARE Class	7:30 pm
7	Union Sunday	11 am	17	Women's Breakfast Group	8:30 am
	YRE Skating Party	4 pm	18	Youth Religious Education	7:30 pm
	Round Robin Dinner	5 pm		Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm
	Rental: Playtime Piano	1 pm	19	Men's Breakfast Group	8:30 am
8	Ethnic Lunch	Noon		ARE Friday Night Forum	7 pm