



Become a Creation-Conscious Congregation!

Two good reasons for the faith community to conserve:

- ❖ **Saving energy saves money... funds that can be used for other ministry efforts**
- ❖ **Saving energy reflects our deeper concerns for environmental justice and our religious calling to care for the Creation**

Starting points to reduce energy use while protecting the Creation from global warming:

Heating and cooling:

- 30% of heat output is lost through holes in the ceiling. Use caulk, foam or mastic to seal around light fixtures and ducts.
- Caulk and weather-strip around doors and windows.
- Install 7-day programmable setback thermostats. When facilities are not in use, set the thermostat(s) to 55 degrees in the winter and 80 degrees in the summer.
- Cover stained-glass windows with UV-filtering storm windows for insulation and damage protection.
- Participate in NC GreenPower. For each block of only \$4.00 added to your monthly utility bill, you can supply 100 kWh's of clean energy into the electric grid, replacing 100 kWh's of fossil fuel power. Visit www.ncgreenpower.org.
- Remove vending machines (or at least turn off or unscrew the lighting).
- Place the refrigerator at least three inches from the wall behind it, and check to see if the refrigerator door gasket needs replacing. If you close the door on a dollar bill at various points, it should not pull out easily.

Water:

- Turn your hot water heater down to 120°, and insulate water pipes.
- Install a 3" insulating blanket on hot water heaters older than five years old.
- Catch rain water using barrels at downspouts of your building.

Lighting:

- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents, which last up to ten times as long and use 75% less energy.
- Convert Exit signs and emergency lighting to Light-Emitting Diode (LED) units.
- Install motion detectors on bathroom lights.

Other:

- ❑ Chart gas and electric bills by the month for one year to determine when and how you use energy.
- ❑ Refrain from using throwaway cups, plates and utensils.
- ❑ Provide containers for recyclables: aluminum, glass, plastic and paper.
- ❑ Save paper by printing on both sides and using blank sides of unneeded sheets for everyday office use.
- ❑ Use copy paper and bathroom products that contain some post-consumer recycled materials.
- ❑ Enlist the aid of a professional to do an energy audit of your facilities. Contact NC IPL for information on our free energy audit workshop program.

Use the IPL Online Shopping Cart:

❖ If your congregation has participated in one of our programs or signed the Certificate of Participation, you'll find it listed on the drop-down list of NC congregations at http://www.miipl.org/show_login.php. A representative of your group can quickly set up a congregational account and begin using the online catalog to order compact fluorescent light bulbs, programmable thermostats and hundreds of other energy-efficient items. With each purchase, you'll be told how many pounds of global warming gases you are keeping out of the atmosphere, and the total will be added to what other NC congregations have saved. The Shopping Cart provides a profile of NC IPL congregations' aggregated emissions savings.

And...

As you promote energy conservation in your congregation, advocate in the public arena for policy changes:

- ❖ Rather than the building of new power plants, demand safe, clean energy generation by our public utilities.
- ❖ Talk or write to your legislators to urge them to support renewable energy and energy efficiency legislation.
- ❖ Require political candidates to present programs that will achieve greenhouse gas reductions.
- ❖ Sign up for NC IPL's faith-based local global warming news and advocacy network by e-mailing info@ncipl.org. Read and act on the advocacy actions recommended in our online monthly newsletter, *The Climate Connection*.