

The concept of sustaining our place of worship in a way that is gentle on the Earth's resources goes beyond viewing the property as real estate. It reflects our deeper concerns for justice and reverence for God as Creator. Global warming, caused by high levels of greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide, threatens God's creation and God's children. The choices we make about our energy uses affect our neighbors and future generations.

Finding the time and resources to take responsible action toward restoring the integrity of creation is always a challenge. Some of these recommendations are relatively simple. Others require careful investigation to decide if they are appropriate, and careful planning to undertake them. Starting an "Energy Stewardship" committee that can explore and apply the suggestions in this brochure is a great first step.

Energy stewardship is a continuing responsibility. God calls us to be faithful stewards of our time, talents, and treasure. Saving energy saves money that can be faithfully used for other ministry efforts. By taking one step at a time and being persistent, the benefit to your congregation by acting as good stewards of God's creation will be significant.

As a sign of my commitment to protect the Creation, I pledge to reduce my use of energy by 10% in one year!

Name _____

Address _____

Email: _____

Congregation/Organization

Phone _____

Please sign and mail a copy of your pledge to us at the address below,
We thank you for your commitment!

NC Interfaith Power & Light

A program of the NC Council of Churches



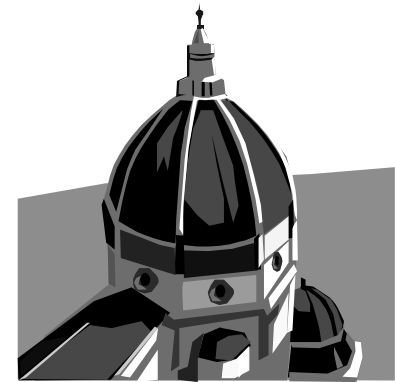
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NC Interfaith Power & Light offers one-and-two hour "Hope Workshops Global Warming" for congregations. The one-hour programs are suitable for adults or youth and can be cut to fit a Sunday or Sabbath School hour or a congregational supper. Two-hour programs on evenings or weekend afternoons include a DVD documentary.

For groups of congregations in an area, we also provide Energy Audit Workshops lead by a professional energy contractor. These are usually held on Saturday mornings, last 2 ½ hours, and include a walk-through examination of the host building. There is no charge for presentations, but we ask for the privilege of taking donations.

How Creation Conscious is Your House of Worship?



A Five-Star Rating System



Is your place of worship an eco-friendly place that inspires reverence for all Creation? Try this quiz as a starting point to save money and energy while protecting Creation from global warming.

Heating and Cooling

- 30% of heat output is lost through holes in the ceiling. We used caulk, foam, or mastic to seal around light fixtures and around ducts.
- We caulked and weather-stripped around our doors and windows
- We installed 7-day programmable setback thermostats.

When facilities are not in use, set thermostat to 55 degrees in the winter and 80 degrees in the summer (re-heating or re-cooling the facility does not use more energy than maintaining a steady temperature).

- We covered our stained-glass windows with UV-filtering storm windows for insulation and damage protection, and to protect the lead from being destroyed by ultra-violent sunlight rays.
- We purchase blocks of NC Green Power.

For only \$4.00 extra a month I can add one block of 100 kWh's of clean energy onto the electric grid, replacing 100 kWh's of conventional power.

Water

- Our hot water heater is turned down to 120°.
- We installed a 3" insulating blanket on hot water heaters older than five years old.
- We check for and fix all leaking faucets and toilets.
- We catch rainwater using barrels at the downspouts of our building.

- Our refrigerator is placed 3" inches from the wall.
- If a dollar bill easily slips out of the closed refrigerator door, we would replace the gasket.
- We removed pop machines and inefficient refrigerators (if we can't remove pop machines, we will at least unscrew the light bulbs).

Lighting

- We replaced incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents, which last ten times as long and use ¼ the energy.
- We converted all EXIT signs and emergency lighting to Light-Emitting Diode (LED) units.
- We installed motion detectors on bathroom lights.

Other

- We charted our gas & electric bills by the month for 1 year to determine when and how we use energy.
- We resist the use of throwaway cups, plates, utensils for morning coffee, group meals, and other events.
- We designated a "car pool team" to encourage worshippers to car pool to worship meetings.
- We provide containers for various types of recyclables: aluminum, glass, paper.
- We maximize paper use by printing on both sides and using blank sides for office paper.
- We use copy paper and bathroom products that are at least partially post-consumer recycled.
- We encourage wildlife with birdfeeders/birdhouses - a fun children's activity.
- We count carbon and dollars - if we are planning to renovate our worship building we make sure energy conservation and efficiency are incorporated into the design of the project.

- BONUS - We let NC IPL know when we make energy conservation improvements (NC IPL will celebrate our achievements on their website!)

Scoring Guide



Actually, take a bow if you are reflecting any Light at all. Keep up the great work!

Pipe Organs and Programmable Thermometers*

55 degrees is the EPA's recommended setback temperature, and it is safe for all pipe organs. Based on a publication written by the Federation of Master Organ Builders in Britain (and agreed upon by 22 members of the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America):

A) The temperature in the sanctuary can be lowered to as little as 45 degrees when it is not occupied, without causing any permanent damage to the pipe organ. In fact, continuous heating under dry conditions will almost certainly damage the pipe organ.

B) Prior to the use of the organ, the temperature around the pipes must be raised to that level at which the organ was tuned, in order for the instrument to play in tune.

C) The organ chamber should not be directly heated with radiators, pipes, or warm air discharge grilles.

*Adapted from "On Your Way to Good Environmental & Economic Stewardship," National Council of Churches or Christ, USA.