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ENERGY STAR® is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency program helping businesses and individuals fight global warming through superior energy efficiency.

STEWARDSHIP OF THE EARTH: STEWARDSHIP OF YOUR FUNDS

Virtually all faith traditions teach stewardship of financial and, especially, of natural resources which support life on Earth. Energy efficiency improves financial stewardship by reducing utility costs. Greater efficiency in your worship facility, members' homes and workplaces can also help protect the Earth for future generations and make life better for everyone today.

PUTTING ENERGY INTO STEWARDSHIP

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's mission protecting human life and health is likely a good match for your stewardship concerns. EPA's **ENERGY STAR for Congregations** provides free information, technical support, and public recognition for congregations that take significant action against energy waste. ENERGY STAR estimates that if America's 370,000 congregations cut energy use just 20% it would save nearly \$630 million for missions and other priorities, while providing more than 3.6 billion "new" kWh electricity without additional cost or pollution. These energy savings would prevent more than 2.6 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions – the equivalent of eliminating emissions from 480,000 cars, or planting 60,000 trees.

A Call to Action

ENERGY STAR is ready to work with your congregation. Your congregation can:

- Become an ENERGY STAR Partner at www.energystar.gov/join
- Benchmark and track your energy performance, money saved and pollution prevented with a free, online tool at www.energystar.gov/benchmark
- Find free information and learn what others have achieved at www.energystar.gov/congregations
- Learn about home energy efficiency at www.energystar.gov/homeimprovement





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Take Action in Your Worship to Save Energy—Some First Steps...

OFFICE AND KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

Always buy ENERGY STAR qualified equipment for your congregation, business and home. The ENERGY STAR label indicates the most efficient computers, printers, copiers, televisions, windows, ceiling fans, and other appliances and equipment.

LIGHTING

Turn off lights (and other equipment) when not in use. High utility costs often include paying for energy that is completely wasted.

Install “occupancy sensors” to automatically turn off lighting when no one is present, and back on as people return.

Replace incandescent bulbs with ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and/or light emitting diodes (LEDs) CFLs cost about 75% less to operate, and last about 10 times longer; LEDs last about 20 times longer.

HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

Keep exterior doors closed while running your HVAC: It's simple, but not always done and it will help to avoid wasteful loss of heated or cooled air.

Change HVAC filters (or clean if reusable) every month during peak cooling or heating season. Dirty filters waste energy, overwork the equipment, and cause poor indoor air quality. New filters are cheap.

Install a quality programmable thermostat to optimize the operation of your HVAC system on a “24/7” basis for savings, comfort and convenience.

Use fans. Comfort is a function of temperature, humidity, and air movement. Fans can help delay or reduce the need for air conditioning by making a higher temperature feel more comfortable.

Plug leaks with weather-stripping and caulking for controlled ventilation to stop outside air infiltration. Many air leaks and drafts are easy to find because they are easy to feel—like those around windows and doors - but holes hidden in HVAC ducts, attics, basements, and crawlspaces can be bigger problems.

Set up a yearly “pre-season” maintenance contract for “tune-up” of your HVAC system before heating and cooling seasons to protect performance.

WATER - HOT AND COLD

Fix leaks. Small leaks add up to many gallons and dollars wasted - especially for hot water.

Buy an ENERGY STAR qualified water heater when a new one is needed. Consider a “tankless” water heater to reduce “standby” storage costs and waste.

Set water temperature at about 110-120 degrees to prevent dangerous scalds and save energy.

Learn more at www.energystar.gov/congregations



EPA's 1 – 100 ENERGY STAR Score and Your Facility's Energy and Financial Performance

To get a clear idea of how efficiently your facility uses energy, you can “benchmark” in EPA's free, online Portfolio Manager tool. From this baseline, you can plan, manage, and track improvement projects toward success. ENERGY STAR partners know that “you can't manage what you don't measure.”

Portfolio Manager helps you assess whole building energy performance; track changes in energy, water use and costs and greenhouse gas emissions over time; track green power purchases; create custom reports; share data with others and see how your building compares to worship facilities nationwide. With this information, your congregation can make more informed decisions on energy-efficient investments and keep everyone well informed about your progress stewarding financial and natural resources.

Why should I use Portfolio Manager?

The tool calculates and updates a simple, easy to interpret 1 - 100 ENERGY STAR score based on your utility data, and key facility factors such as square footage, equipment and hours of operation. These factors and weather are “normalized” for changes over time, with your score accurately documenting savings. Scores of 75 or higher are eligible for national ENERGY STAR certification. For more information on Portfolio Manager and to create an account, please see www.energystar.gov/benchmark.