

Stewardship of Energy, in your House of Worship

O children of Adam, eat and drink but do not be wasteful, for Allah does not like those who are wasteful.

Koran 7:31

Next Steps

After these steps, further cost-effective conservation is possible. Contact PEQ to learn about having an **energy audit** conducted in your house of worship.

An energy audit is an analysis of your facility conducted by an energy consultant examining how your congregation uses energy. You will be given concrete recommendations for ways to lower usage.

Publicize your efforts and success, framing them as expressions of the congregation's values. PEQ has sample press releases available.

Developing Good Energy Habits An Expression of Faith and Values

By developing good energy habits, you're not only saving money and protecting the environment, you're modeling values for your community—values of good stewardship and respect for the fragile resources of the natural world. Many people also find that conserving energy helps them appreciate the beauty of earth, which nurtures their spirits.

So steward energy wisely. You're not just protecting the planet—you're communicating a sense of gratitude for life and the earth to those you love.

Websites

...indeed [God] is not far from us. For in [God] we live and move and have our being....

Acts 17:27-28

For more information about energy efficiency in your house of worship, be sure to look at the following websites:

www.epa.gov/congregations

EPA's Energy Star for Congregations site

www.njsmartstartbuildings.com

NJ's Rebate Program for Energy Efficiency—congregations can offset the costs of conservation measures through this state rebate program.

www.interfaithenergy.com

The Interfaith Coalition on Energy—experts on reducing energy use in congregations

www.ipcc.ch

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

www.peqnj.org

**Partners for Environmental Quality
204 West State Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08608**

Phone: 609-394-1090

Fax: 609-394-2199

Info@peqnj.org

*One should cultivate a loving mind to the whole world,
above, below and across.*

Buddhist Metta Sutta 1

STEWARDING ENERGY

In Your

House
of
Worship

*Partners for Environmental Quality
An Interfaith Coalition*

*204 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608*

Phone: 609-394-1090 Fax: 609-394-2199

Web: www.peqnj.org

Stewardship of Energy in your House of Worship

The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it .

Psalm 24:1

Energy and Global Climate Change

Global climate change is one of the most critical issues facing all of us today—and the US, with 4% of the world's population produces 24% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change.

According to the US Dept. of Energy, the average house of worship in the US contains 7,000 square feet and uses 14,000 kWh of electricity and 980 gallons of heating oil (or the natural gas equivalent) annually.

The problem? This energy use produces air pollution and approximately 37,000 lbs. of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions annually. CO₂ is a greenhouse gas that has many adverse effects on people, climate and the environment. The Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change states that CO₂ emissions contribute to:

- ◆ global climate change
- ◆ rising sea levels
- ◆ altered weather patterns that have been particularly destructive to coastal areas in the developing world
- ◆ harmful changes in disease vectors
- ◆ unnatural shifts in the habitat of many plant and animal species.

The following tips will help you conserve energy, save money, improve air quality, and fight global climate change.

Stewardship of Energy, in your House of Worship

Energy Habits to Protect The Earth

Choose an Energy Steward.

Good stewardship of energy means good stewardship of congregational funds. By making energy the responsibility of an individual, your house of worship will maximize opportunities for fiscal savings and conserving energy.

The responsibilities for this position include monitoring energy use and overseeing the implementation of conservation efforts. PEQ has resources to make this job easy and rewarding!

Adopt the Covenant of Sustainability

In 2000, New Jersey created a Covenant of Sustainability inviting institutions all over New Jersey to commit to helping the State reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.

The Covenant is a voluntary, legally non-binding commitment your congregation's governing board makes to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. Adopting the Covenant increases the likelihood that conservation will become an ongoing part of your institution's governance.

Calculate a Baseline and Target

A baseline tells how much energy your house of worship currently uses. Once you have established your baseline, PEQ can help you set a target to reduce your energy usage. Contact PEQ at info@peqnj.org for an easy-to-use electronic spreadsheet to help you calculate your baseline!

Stewardship of Energy, in your House of Worship

Select Conservation Measures

PEQ recommends the following conservation measures:

- Install programmable thermostats and turn the heat down in winter when the building is empty. It is untrue that larger “temperature setbacks” increase overall energy use.
- Install motion detectors in your facility to turn off lights automatically, and replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs, which produce high-quality light for 25% of the energy.
- Disconnect unnecessary equipment (such as spare refrigerators) and turn off computer equipment and power strips when not in use.
- Check seals and weatherstripping on windows, doors, refrigerators.
- Replace traditional emergency exit signs with LED models, cutting energy use by 95%.
- When replacing appliances, purchase Energy Star models, which are the most efficient performers in their class.
- Check congregation meeting schedule to ensure energy-efficient use of space—don't hold small meetings in big rooms!