



## ENERGY STAR® CONGREGATIONS NETWORK Stewardship Action List

**Stewardship of the Earth.** Most faiths have a tradition of ethical concern regarding the stewardship of natural resources that support life, as well as their financial resources. Wasted energy is not only poor stewardship of funds, but it is wasted natural resources, and causes unnecessary pollution.

**ENERGY STAR for Congregations** is a free service of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, offering technical support, public recognition, calculations, tools, and beginning in Spring 2005, opportunities for group purchasing, for congregations joining the free Energy Star Congregations Network. To learn more about ENERGY STAR for Congregations visit [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=small\\_busin\\_ess.sb\\_congregations](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=small_busin_ess.sb_congregations) or phone toll free 1-888-STAR-YES (ask for congregations' tech help).

### 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” in proper locations to automatically turn off lighting when no one is present, and back on when people return. Even good equipment can be installed wrong, so do not install the sensor behind a coat rack, door, or bookcase. It must be able to “see” an approaching person’s motion to turn on the light before, or as they enter an unlit area.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), wherever appropriate. CFLs cost about 75% less to operate, and last about 10 times longer.
- Adjust lighting to your actual needs; use free “daylighting.” This means turn off or dim your lights when daylight is adequate, or use automatic “daylight-dimming” ballasts/controls to do this for you.
- To prevent glare, eyestrain, and headaches, do not “over-light.” Too much light can be as bad for visual quality as too little light—and it costs a lot more.
- Install brighter, safer light-emitting diode (LED) exit signs. These exit signs can dramatically reduce maintenance by eliminating lamp replacement and can save up to \$24 dollars per sign annually in electricity costs while preventing up to 500 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Consider upgrading to T-8 (1" diameter) fluorescent lamp tubes with solid-state electronic

ballasts that are more efficient than older T-12 (1.5" diameter) tubes with magnetic ballasts.

### OFFICE AND KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

- Always buy ENERGY STAR qualified equipment for your congregation, business and home. The ENERGY STAR mark indicates the most efficient computers, printers, copiers, refrigerators, televisions, windows, thermostats, ceiling fans, and other appliances and equipment. Find ENERGY STAR qualified products online at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).
- Clean refrigerator coils twice a year. Replace door gaskets if a dollar bill easily slips out when closed between the door’s seals.

### WATER - HOT AND COLD

- Fix leaks. Small leaks add up to many gallons and dollars wasted each month. Water conservation saves energy and money.
- Use sink aerators and water-efficient showerheads and toilets to save water.
- Install an insulation blanket on water heaters that are seven years or older, and insulate the first 3 feet of the heated water “out” pipe on both old and new units.
- If buying a new water heater, always buy ENERGY STAR qualified equipment. In areas of infrequent use consider “tankless” water heaters to reduce “standby” storage costs and waste.
- Set water temperature only as hot as needed (110-120 degrees) to prevent scalds and save energy.
- When landscaping, use plants native to your climate that require minimal watering and provide better pest resistance. If local code allows, consider diverting “gray water” for irrigation.

### HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

- “Tune-up” your heating, ventilating and air-conditioning (HVAC) system with an annual maintenance contract. Even a new ENERGY STAR qualified HVAC system, like a new car, will decline in performance without regular maintenance. A yearly “maintenance contract” costs as little as \$100 depending on the building and HVAC system, but can save even more than this. A contract automatically ensures that your HVAC contractor will provide “pre-season”

tune-ups before each cooling and heating season. You save energy and money, and your system may last years longer.

- Regularly change (or clean if reusable) HVAC filters every month during peak cooling or heating season. New filters usually cost only \$2 to \$5 each. Dirty filters cost more to use, overwork the equipment, and result in lower indoor air quality.
- Install a programmable thermostat to automate your HVAC system. This solid-state, electronic device optimizes HVAC operation “24/7” based on your schedule, and can be “overridden” as needed for unscheduled events. So members always enter a comfortable building, this “smart thermostat” can turn on the HVAC one hour before arrival instead of heating or cooling unoccupied space. These thermostats typically cost \$25 to \$150, and using them properly can cut HVAC costs.
- Control direct sun through windows depending on the season and local climate. During cooling season, block direct heat gain from the sun shining through glass on the east and especially west sides of the building. Depending on your facility, options such as “solar screen,” “solar film,” awnings, and vines can help. Over time, trees can attractively shade the building, and help clean the air. Interior curtains or drapes can help, but it is best to prevent the summer heat from getting past the glass and inside. During heating season, with the sun low in the South, unobstructed southern windows can contribute solar heat gain during the day.

COMING IN SPRING 2005...at  
[www.energystar.gov/congregations](http://www.energystar.gov/congregations)

Online support for congregations and interfaith group discounts on ENERGY STAR labeled products and equipment.

- Do-it- yourself guide
- Identifying opportunities
- Product lists and specifications
- Templates
- Marketing support
- Success stories

- Use fans. Comfort is a function of temperature, humidity, and air movement. Moving air can make a somewhat higher temperature and/or humidity feel comfortable. Fans can help delay or reduce the need for air conditioning, and a temperature setting of only 3 to 5 degrees higher can feel as comfortable with fans. Each degree of higher temperature can save about 3% on cooling costs. When the temperature outside is more comfortable than inside, a “box fan” in the window, or large “whole building” fan in the attic can push air out of the building and pull in comfortable outside air. Fans can improve comfort and save energy year round.
- Plug leaks with weatherstripping and caulking. Caulking and weatherstripping let you manage your ventilation, which is the deliberate, controlled exchange of stuffy inside air for fresher outdoor air. To learn more about indoor air quality in your building visit [www.epa.gov/iaq](http://www.epa.gov/iaq).

#### CLEAN ENERGY

- Where available, consider switching to electricity generated from a clean, renewable source such as solar or wind power certified by Green-e. Visit [www.green-e.org](http://www.green-e.org) for information.

#### RELATED LINKS

ENERGY STAR® for Congregations

<http://www.energystar.gov/congregations>

EPA Green Power Partnership

<http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/>

U.S. Department of Energy’s Green Power Network

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/>

EPA Global Warming

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/oar/globalwarming.nsf/content/index.html>

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1-888 STAR YES or visit

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