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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 FUNDS

Virtually all faith traditions teach stewardship of natural resources which support humans and all life. Energy efficiency improves financial stewardship by saving utility funds. Your congregation, through energy efficiency in your house of worship, in members' homes and businesses can help protect the earth for future generations.

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## PUTTING ENERGY INTO STEWARDSHIP

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's **ENERGY STAR Congregations Network** 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 10% would save nearly \$315 million for missions and other priorities, while providing more than 1.8 billion "new" kWh electricity without additional cost or pollution. This energy reduction would prevent more than 1.3 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions – the equivalent of eliminating emissions from 240,000 cars, or planting 300,000 acres of trees.

### A Call to Action

ENERGY STAR is ready to work with your congregation. Are you ready to strengthen your stewardship of your funds and of our earth?

- Your congregation can become an ENERGY STAR Partner at [www.energystar.gov/join](http://www.energystar.gov/join)
- Your congregation can benchmark your energy performance and find out where you score on a scale of 1 to 100 [www.energystar.gov/benchmark](http://www.energystar.gov/benchmark)
- Find additional information and learn what others have done [www.energystar.gov/congregations](http://www.energystar.gov/congregations)
- Your congregants can learn about home energy efficiency at [www.energystar.gov/homeimprovement](http://www.energystar.gov/homeimprovement)





# Putting Energy into Stewardship

## OFFICE AND KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

Always **buy ENERGY STAR qualified equipment** for your congregation, business and home. The ENERGY STAR indicates the most efficient models of more than 40 products.

## 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.

**Install compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs)** to replace incandescent light bulbs wherever appropriate. CFLs cost about 75% less to operate, and last about 10 times longer.

**Install ENERGY STAR qualified LED (light-emitting diode) exit signs** to cut maintenance by eliminating lamp replacement for about 10 years, while using about 5 watts or 1/8 the energy of a typical exit sign.

## HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

**Set up an HVAC “maintenance contract” for “tune-up” of your HVAC system** before heating and cooling seasons to protect performance. A maintenance contract costs about \$100-\$150 yearly, and can pay for itself in energy savings. A contract ensures that your HVAC contractor will schedule tune-ups even if you forget.

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

**Install an ENERGY STAR qualified programmable thermostat** to optimize the operation of your HVAC system on a “24/7” basis for savings, comfort and convenience. The control is based on your schedule, and is easily “overridden” as needed. A “smart thermostat” ranges from \$25 - \$150, depending on features.

**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. Each degree of higher temperature can save about 3% on cooling cost.

**Plug leaks with weather-stripping and caulking** for controlled ventilation, rather than random air infiltration. To learn more about indoor air quality in your building visit [www.epa.gov/iaq](http://www.epa.gov/iaq)

## WATER - HOT AND COLD

**Fix leaks.** Small leaks add up to many gallons and dollars wasted, especially 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.

## A National Energy Performance Rating For Worship Facilities

The Environmental Protection Agency has expanded the National Energy Performance Rating system to worship facilities. EPA’s detailed analysis of the 2003 CBECs data identified significant drivers of energy use in worship facilities. These variables were evaluated and incorporated into a free, online rating model that standardizes energy use in worship facilities allowing objective, “weather-normalized” comparisons across different building types and locations nationwide, or by state, city or organization.

More importantly, the rating helps individual managers to accurately assess the energy performance of their buildings; make more informed budgetary, investment and management decisions; and ultimately to calculate and communicate their environmental stewardship achievements to congregational clergy and members, as well as the larger community.

### **Why should I use Portfolio Manager for my house of worship?**

The tool produces a *simple easy to interpret 1 to 100 score* for your building. It is an analytical tool based on unbiased statistical analysis of a National peer sample. It also produces emissions estimates based on your utility. The tool is updated periodically and draws on the extensive research of several Government agencies such as; EPA, DOE, and NOAA.

The Portfolio Manager tool is quickly becoming the “National standard” or evaluating building energy efficiency with over 90,000 buildings and 2,500 users using the tool to date. Over 19% of all US commercial facilities have been benchmarked using Portfolio Manager

### **Where can I find out more about the tool?**

There is a benchmarking starter kit and additional information on the estimation process at [www.energystar.gov/benchmark](http://www.energystar.gov/benchmark).

For additional information on the ENERGY STAR for Congregations program please visit [www.energystar.gov/congregations](http://www.energystar.gov/congregations)