

# *The Seventh Day Initiative*

## **Brief & FAQs: A Brief Explanation, Resource List and Answers to Frequently Asked Questions \*\***

Across Indiana, a set of pioneering congregations are modeling how gleaming deep energy savings is simple and cost-effective. These *Seventh Day* congregations are:

- reducing their energy use by 25% to 40% and
- engaging at least a third of their member households to reduce by a seventh or more.

The first six of these congregations have now reduced their energy use by an average of 30%. A third of their households have reduced their energy consumption by at least a seventh. In so doing, these congregations are strengthening their communities while redirecting their resources toward mission. These faith communities are showing the way for other congregations to do the same. *Seventh Day* has the potential to inspire a real difference in how Hoosiers of faith steward resources.

### **Seventh Day Resources**

Tools with an asterisk are also in [The Seventh Day Initiative Using Energy Prudently Toolkit](#).

#### **Form and Inform a Team**

[Low Carbon Diet Workbook](#), this playful self-led program to save energy at home is an excellent way to convene a team, help it bond & get it on the same page. Four bi-weekly sessions with assignments

[Engaging Your Congregation](#)\*, ideas for clergy and lay leaders, two pages

[Faith Statements](#), excerpts from and links to 24 faith calls to care for creation and conserve energy

#### **Save Energy in Your House of Worship**

**Commit.** [Seventh Day Covenant](#)\* and [Harnessing the Power of Solar Panels](#) (Click on link mid-page under “Save Energy in Your Congregation” “Commit”)

**Support.** What you need to cut energy use in your house of worship by 25% to 40%:

- [Using Thermostat Set Points to Greatly Reduce Energy Use: A Toolkit](#)\*
- [Quick Guides to Sealing](#)\* and [Insulating Your Building’s Envelope](#)\*
- [Quick Guide to Saving Energy and Money with Your HVAC Systems](#)\* and [Boiler Systems](#)\*
- [Energy Saver Checklist for Congregations](#)\* and [Reducing Your Building’s Electricity Usage](#)\*
- [Costs of Different Types of Lighting](#)\* and [Recouping the Cost of LEDs in Two Years](#)\*

**Measure.** [EPA Portfolio Manager](#), online tool to track your congregation’s energy use

#### **Save Energy in Your Home**

**Commit.** [Creation Care Household Energy Conservation Pledge](#)\*

#### **Support.**

- For busy self-starters, [Household Checklist](#)\* shows cost and savings of high-impact measures
- For small or large groups, [Low Carbon Diet Workbook](#), described above
- For entire community, [Task of the Month Toolkit](#) for congregations breaks household energy reduction into twelve bite-size pieces, provides organizer tips, posters, info sheets, and more

**Measure.** [Seventh Day Household Energy Conservation Survey](#), simple quick online tool

\*\* Find this at [www.seventhdayinitiative.org/resources/Seventh%20Day%20Brief%20%26%20FAQs.pdf](http://www.seventhdayinitiative.org/resources/Seventh%20Day%20Brief%20%26%20FAQs.pdf)

## Frequently Asked Questions about *Seventh Day*

### 1. Energy Conservation in Our House of Worship

**Our congregation has already done lots of energy conservation. How can we still reduce by 25%?**

What you've already done counts: we measure from your base year - before you began conserving.

**How can we see our progress and show that we've met our target?**

You provide your base year and current monthly utility bills. We'll provide a quarterly progress report.

**How can we afford to cut our energy use by 25%? And how can we do it?**

It can cost very little because it's all about cutting out waste. We'll help with checklists, info sheets and tech support. One congregation recouped its entire investment in 20 months – and will be saving for years.

### 2. Energy Conservation in Our Homes

**If we've already been conserving energy for a long time, how can we reduce by a seventh?**

What you've already done counts. If you've already done a lot, you've probably already met the goal.

**How can we see how much we've already accomplished? How can we tell we've met the target?**

You can see with a simple online survey. It takes 3 - 5 minutes to complete. There's a paper version too.

**How do we know what to do to cut our energy use by 14%?**

We've got what you need: a simple checklist, the Low Carbon workbook for small groups, and the Task of the Month program for the whole congregation with info sheets, posters and tips for organizers.

**How can we get our congregation to do this?**

It's not hard. We have lots of ideas and resources to help, from a household pledge to films, sermon and program ideas, denominational statements and more.

### 3. Why join Seventh Day?

- Lower utility bills for the congregation
- Lower utility bills for participating households
- Connection to other people of faith across the state – we're doing this together
- Community connection and pride –
  - Sense of together doing something big for our global neighbors and future generations
  - Youth can weatherize retirees' homes
  - Serve as a model for other congregations across Indiana
  - Fun and joyful
  - Will attract major media attention

### 4. What will it require of us?

- Support of clergy person, board, building committee and staff
- Ideal but not essential: investment of \$3000 to be recouped in savings within 18 months
- Core group of four to five people ready to move it forward including one to two leaders, someone with building expertise, someone connected to the congregation's leadership