

A Quick Guide to Reducing Your Building's Electricity Usage

Find your energy hogs, tame them, and get your congregation on board

Discover: What's using your electricity?

Walk your facility and create a list of outdoor & indoor lights, appliances, computers, etc.

- ✓ Check and list their energy use over time.
- ✓ Note days and hours in use.
- ✓ Note if any are using power while not in use.
- ✓ Note expected annual energy use of any ENERGY STAR® appliances.

How much energy does it use?

- For items that use a plug, use a monitor, such as a [Kill A Watt](#) @ \$25, to see how much they use at any moment and over a period of time.
- For items without plugs such as central AC, a furnace blower or area lights, invest in a "whole house" meter such as the [EUM-2000](#) or [TED](#), @ \$200, which hook into your electric panel.

Finding ENERGY HOGS can help cut waste. 

Plan: Where and how to cut?


LOOK FOR YOUR BIGGEST ENERGY USERS

 **ELECTRIC BASEBOARD HEATERS** are hogs:

- ✓ Be sure they are off when no one is in the room. You can use a timer or a sensor.

Other common items that waste energy if no one is using them or spaces are unoccupied should be put on a:

- ✓ timer, or
- ✓ power cord that's on only when needed.

 **DEHUMIDIFIERS** also are energy hogs:

- If your unit runs a lot, figure out why.
- Unless you're certain the unit's humidistat or hygrometer is working, put it on a timer.

Where else can you cut?

LIGHTS:

- Would some areas be fine with less light?
- Have all incandescent and T12 fluorescents been replaced with lower wattage lights?
- If lights in unoccupied areas are often left on, install motion or infrared occupancy sensors – especially in restrooms where exhaust fans run whenever the lights are on.
- Replace lights used the most or are in hard-to-replace areas with efficient, long-lasting LEDs,
- Replaced incandescents in exit signs with LED retrofit kits – quick payback!



OUTDOOR LIGHTS THAT ARE ON ALL NIGHT are energy hogs and may provide *less* security than motion- or infrared-activated lights.

- ✓ Are all your lights useful?
- ✓ Are there lower-watt alternatives?

WATER HEATERS:

- Turn temperature down to 120° when it's used.
- If only used for hand washing, turn to 95°.
- If a water heater is in use only a few days or hours a week, minimize temperature setting the rest of the time.
- If a water heater is warm to the touch or pre-2004, a water heater "blanket" –available at hardware stores– will cut energy waste.
- Install faucet aerators to reduce water waste.

REFRIGERATORS AND FREEZERS:



- Replace **PRE-2001 MODELS**, which are 40% less efficient than equivalent newer models.
- Clean fan & coils and be sure seals are tight.
- Leave space around so units can "breathe".

Act: Reduce your use!

Propose action plan to decision-makers:

For each item, include up-front costs, annual savings & payback period.

Engage your staff & congregation:

- Highlight why to cut (heeding the faith call to care for our earth, improved health, less pollution, fewer new power plants, less harm to the poor).
- Involve members and youth in collecting and assessing data and taking action.
- Discuss ways to reduce waste and save energy with staff, members and youth.
 - ✓ Post signs in problem areas.
 - ✓ Write newsletter articles.
 - ✓ Make announcements at services.
 - ✓ Hold forums between services.

The Seventh Day Initiative



Caring for Creation