



SO, HOW **COOL** IS YOUR CONGREGATION?

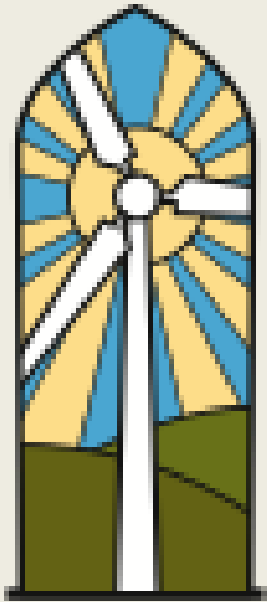
including
25 ways under \$25
to transform your church into a greener space.

www.coolcongregations.org

Virginia Interfaith Power & Light (VAIPL)



VAIPL is the only organization working with faith communities statewide to mobilize a morality-centered policy response to the climate crisis and to encourage Virginians to practice adaptation and sustainability.



Interfaith Power & Light

A Religious Response to Global Warming

Vision

IPL envisions a stable climate where humans live in right and just relationship, interconnected with a healthy, thriving, natural world.

Mission

Interfaith Power & Light inspires and mobilizes people of faith and conscience to take bold and just action on climate change.

Climate Change Is Real



Washington, D.C. 2019

Carbon Free!



Green Team!

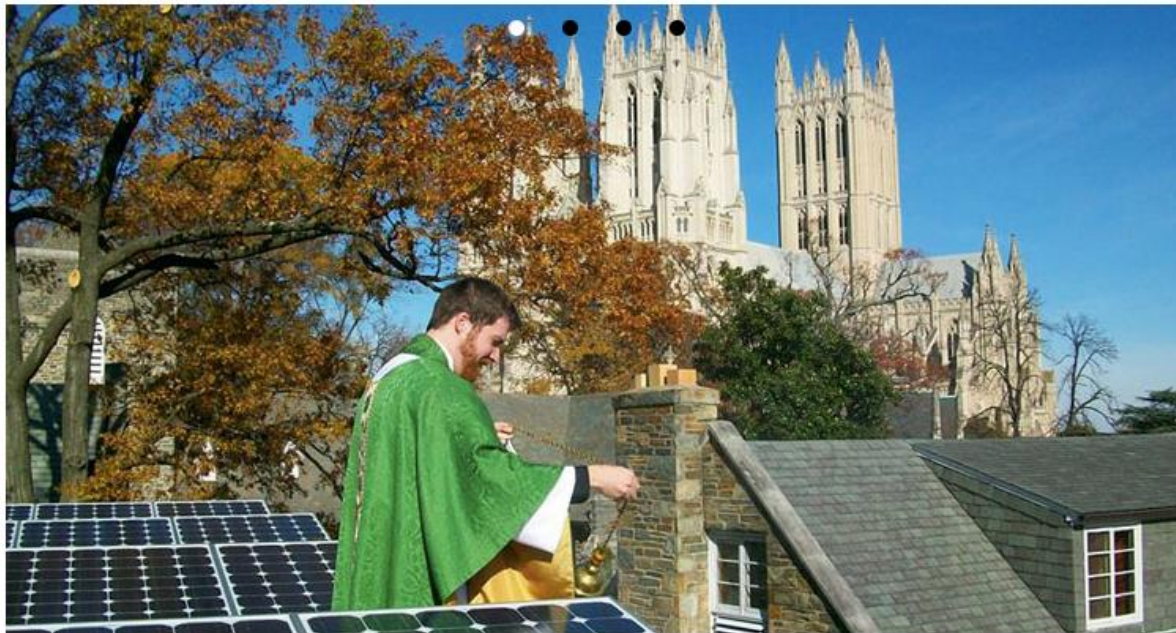


St. John's Lutheran, Cedar Falls, Iowa

Educate Your Congregation



www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/films



PLEDGE STORIES

 **CONGREGATIONS**
Take the Pledge 

 **INDIVIDUALS**
Take the Pledge 

 **JOIN with**
Interfaith Power & Light 

 **Pope Francis**
Encyclical Resources 

www.parispledge.org



COOL CONGREGATIONS

Search this website ...

SEARCH

Brought to you by
Interfaith Power & Light
A religious response to global warming

[About](#) [Start-up Kits](#) [The Challenge](#) [Find Inspiration](#) [In Your State](#) [Calculators](#) [Resources](#) [Contact Us](#)

ABOUT COOL CONGREGATIONS

Across the country, people of faith are making changes in their homes and places of worship to prevent global warming through our Cool Congregations program. Our unique stewardship program helps congregations engage their members in Creation-care by reducing individual greenhouse gas emissions and helps save hundreds of dollars in the process. ... [Learn more](#)



» SUCCESS STORIES

[Cool Congregations Winners are leading the way to a more resilient future](#)

[America's faith communities lead the way on slashing climate pollution](#)

[Modeling care for the Earth and future generations in Kentucky](#)

[Energy saving volunteers in North Carolina work at nexus of climate and poverty](#)

» 25 STEPS UNDER \$25



Getting started in the process of transforming your home or house of worship into a greener space may seem overwhelming. But there are many easy steps you can take that make a big

» START HERE!



Our Cool Congregations Start-up Kits walk you through the process of becoming a Cool Congregation. The program is flexible and is different for every congregation. In some cases,

www.coolcongregations.org



You are here: [Home](#) / [Start-up Kits](#) / Start-up Kit for Congregations

START-UP KIT FOR CONGREGATIONS

Use this online kit to learn how to become a Cool Congregation. Each page, or step, will guide and inform your efforts. Interfaith Power & Light is mobilizing a religious response to global warming in congregations through the use of renewable energy, energy efficiency, climate-friendly grounds, water conservation, and inspiring people at home and in the community. Join the movement!

FORM A TEAM

They go by many names: green team, stewardship council, environmental task force, sustainability group, eco-group, Creation care team. Your congregation may already have one, in which case, you will need to bring this idea to them. If not, you can form your own team. Here are some. . . [learn more](#)

WRITE A MISSION STATEMENT

After you have found or formed your team, sit down together to reflect on why your congregation would like to become a Cool Congregation. Your goal is to create your team's "mission statement". Caring for Creation and the climate as acts of faithful stewardship is a relatively. . . [learn more](#)

FIND INSPIRATION > QUICK PICKS

Cool Congregations are united by their concern about climate change. Cool Congregations find unique expression from place to place. IPL continually gathers success stories of what others have done to provide inspiration for those who are considering where to start. Energy Efficiency St Paul's Episcopal Church in Lakewood,. . . [learn more](#)

www.coolcongregations.org



← Back to Main Site

Carbon Calculator Overview

Congregational Calculator

Household Calculator

How Cool is Your Congregation?

What is a Carbon Footprint?

The vast majority of energy we use today is derived from the burning of fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas, or coal. A carbon footprint, as commonly known, is simply the weight of carbon or carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere each year from the burning of fossil fuels. The carbon footprint, however, can be expressed in other ways that are more useful and more consistent with the original ecological footprint concept: the area of the Earth's surface needed to absorb those emissions. On average, it takes roughly 41 acres to absorb one ton of carbon emissions. Other gases that contribute to global warming — such as methane from waste — are converted into "carbon equivalent" units then added to the carbon footprint.

Our Cool Congregations Calculator

Use our [Cool Congregations Calculator](#) to estimate your congregation's carbon footprint. It offers a snapshot of your carbon footprint, allowing you to look at the best places to lower your footprint and become more energy smart. We break your carbon footprint down into four sub-components:

Energy Use: We estimate the carbon emissions from your congregation's use of electricity, natural gas and other fuels.

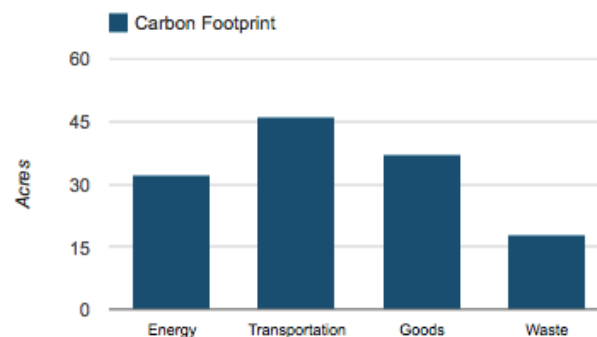
USE THESE CALCULATORS TO SEE YOUR CURRENT CARBON FOOTPRINT AT HOME AND WITHIN YOUR HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Congregational Calculator

Household Calculator

Sample Congregation:
Blue Sky Church, CA

Gross Carbon Footprint (Acres)





Get an Energy Audit

Make a Plan!

- Auditor's suggestions
- IPL's 25 Steps Under \$25 and Over \$25
- IPL Congregational Success Stories
- EPA Energy Star for Congregations has a workbook (Contact IPL)

EPA Energy Star for Congregations



<https://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/epa-energy-star-for-congregations-workbook/>

Cool Congregations Challenge Energy Saver



www.CoolCongregations.org

Go Electric! Choose 100% renewable energy for your home and switch all appliances to electric.

25 Steps Under \$25

Lighting

CO₂ Reduction

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Turn off the lights in unused rooms. | 380 pounds a year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Buy energy-efficient LED bulbs for the lights you use most. They last 10x longer and have no mercury. | 193 pounds a year per bulb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Replace your halogen lamp with an LED lamp. Saves on air conditioning as well, LEDs are 90% cooler than halogen. | 475 pounds a year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Replace holiday decorations with LED lights. | 122 pounds a season |

Appliances & Gadgets

CO₂ Reduction

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Unplug and recycle old or rarely used refrigerators. | 2,500 pounds a year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Allow laundry items to air-dry after washing. | 200 pounds a year for every dryer load reduced per week; |

25 Steps Under \$25
www.coolcongregations.org

Lighting - Free



Turn off lights when not needed

25 Steps Under \$25

Lighting - Free



Open curtains

25 Steps Under \$25

Lighting - Quick Payback

- Replace incandescent and halogen with LED



25 Steps Under \$25

Lighting - Quick Payback



25 Steps Under \$25

Lighting - Quick Payback



LED holiday lights

25 Steps Under \$25

Kitchen - Free



Air Dry Dishes

25 Steps Under \$25

Kitchen - Free



Unplug and
recycle old
Refrigerators
and Freezers

25 Steps Under \$25

Kitchen - Free



Unplug
Coffee Maker
when not in
use

25 Steps Under \$25

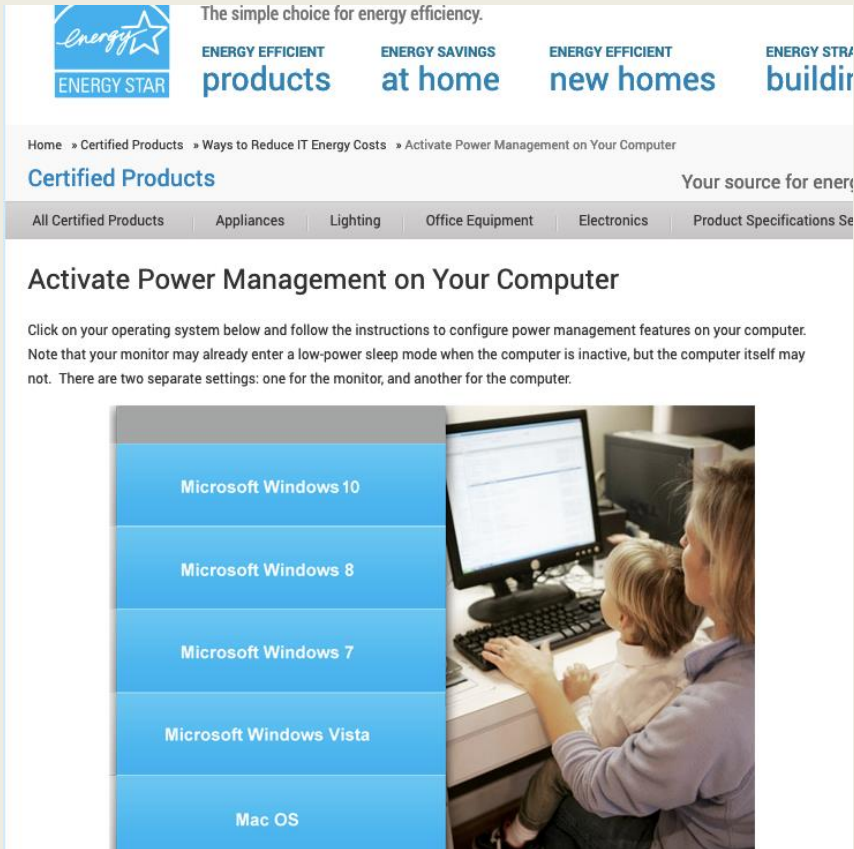
Kitchen - Quick Payback



Dry kitchen
towels and
tablecloths on a
drying rack

25 Steps Under \$25

Office - Free



Set your computer
and other office
equipment on
energy saving
mode
EnergyStar.gov has
clear instructions

25 Steps Under \$25

Office - Quick Payback



Use power strips to cut phantom load

25 Steps Under \$25

HVAC - Free



Set thermostat to 68 in winter, 78 in summer

25 Steps Under \$25

Hvac - Quick Payback



25 Steps Under \$25

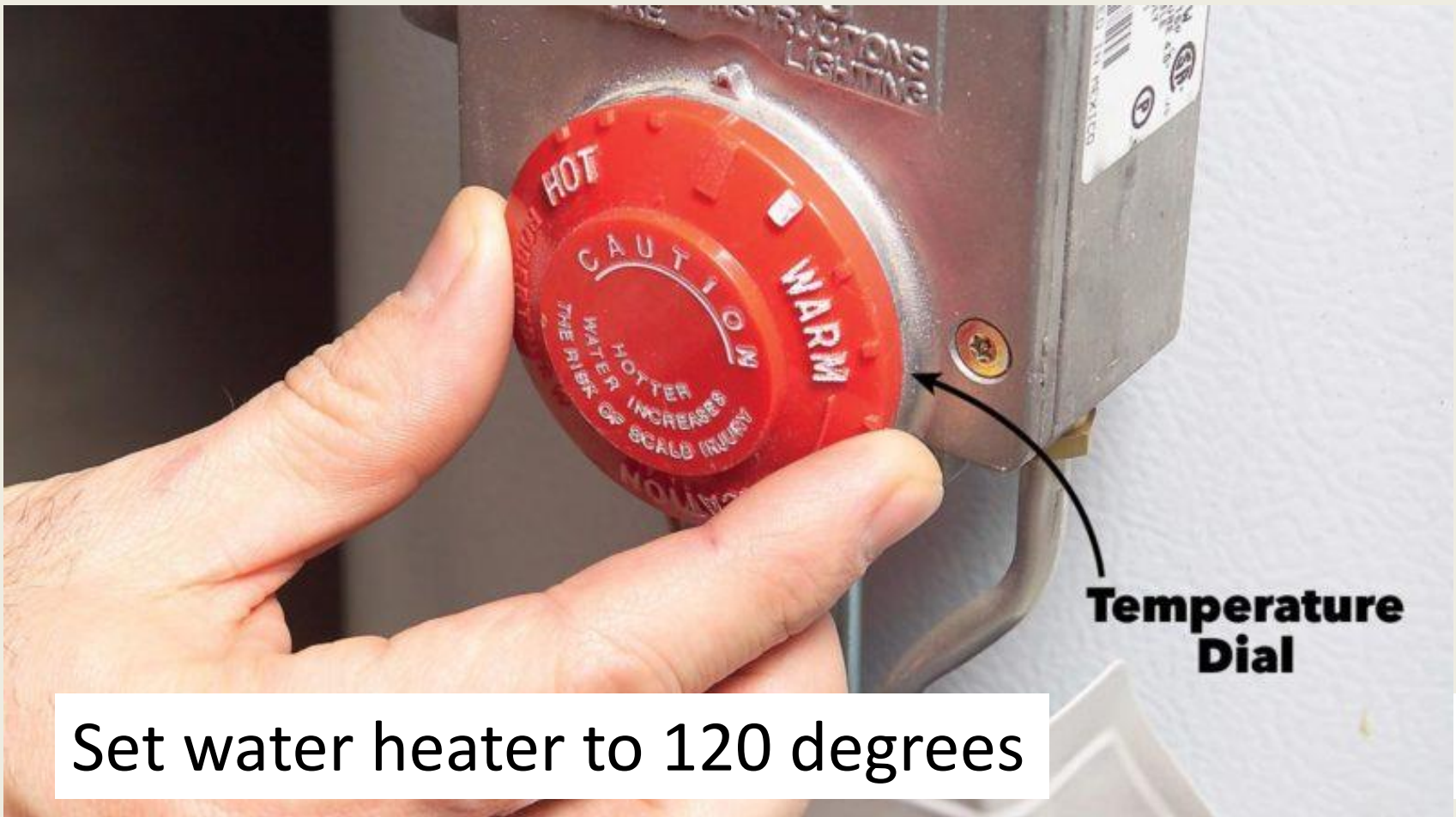
Hvac - Quick Payback



Replace furnace filter to keep air flowing

25 Steps Under \$25

Water - Free



Set water heater to 120 degrees

25 Steps Under \$25

AccuWash Sensor

Cold
Cold

Warm
Cold

Hot
Cold

Warm
Warm

Wash
Rinse

Warm
Warm

Cold
Cold

Temperature

Wash linens in cold water

25 Steps Under \$25

Water - Quick Payback



Install faucet aerators to cut use of hot water

25 Steps Under \$25

Water - Quick Payback



Insulate
hot water
pipes

25 Steps Under \$25

Transportation



Ride bikes to church!

25 Steps Under \$25

www.coolcongregations.org

Transportation



Check tire pressure

25 Steps Under \$25

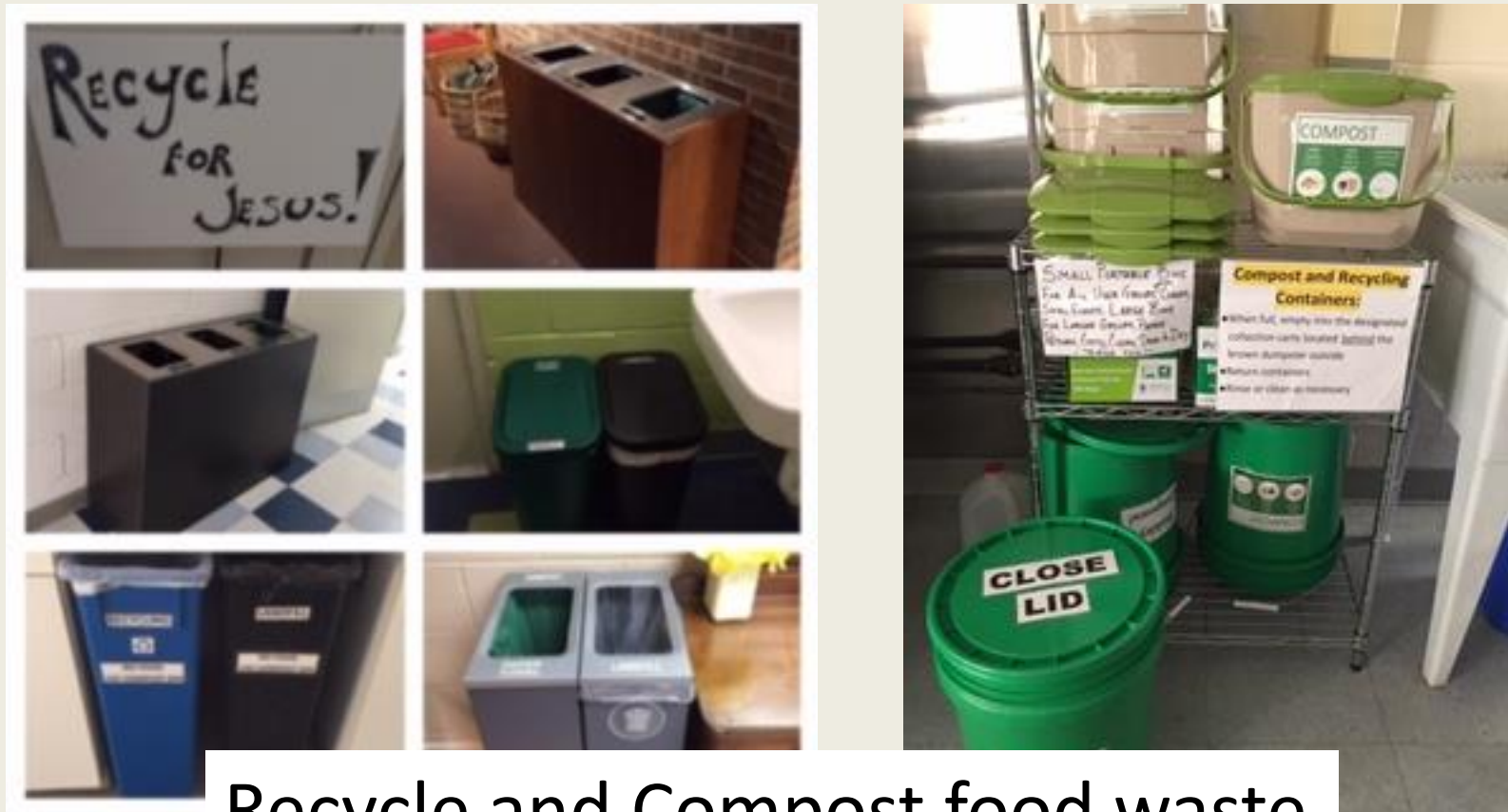
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



Reusable food service

25 Steps Under \$25

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



Recycle and Compost food waste

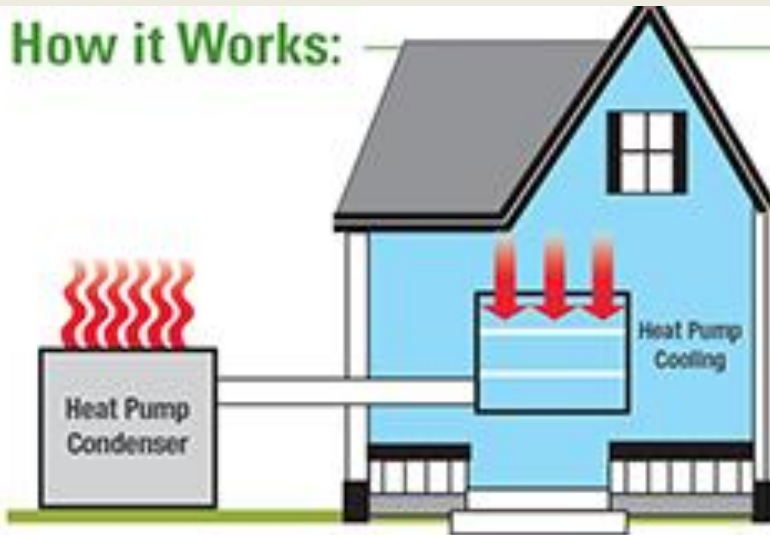
25 Steps Under \$25

25 Steps Over \$25

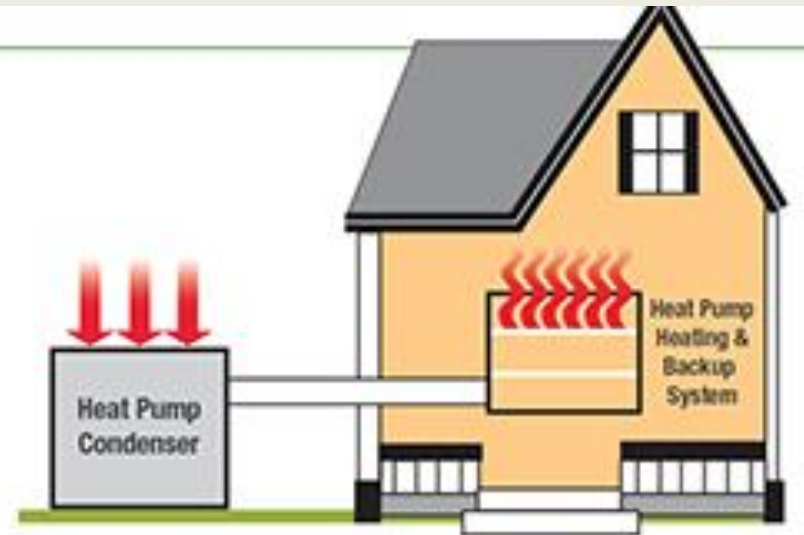
- Energy Star appliances and equipment – go electric!
- Insulate the buildings
- Plant trees
- Replace windows
- Heat pumps – air source or ground source/geothermal – immediately cut heating and cooling costs by 30-60%, payback of 5-10 yrs, greater savings after that

Air Source Heat Pumps

How it Works:



During the summer: A heat pump pulls heat from inside your home and moves it outside to provide air conditioning.



During the fall and spring: A heat pump pulls heat from outside and moves it into your home. You will need a backup heat source when temperatures are below 30 degrees F, typically mid-December through mid-February.

Cut Energy Costs by 30 – 60%

Rebates and Incentives

Check out the awesome Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency at:

<http://www.dsireusa.org/>

Solar



Immaculate Conception Catholic Church,
Hampton, Virginia

Cool Congregations Certification



www.CoolCongregations.org

Cool Congregations Certification



www.CoolCongregations.org

Cool Congregations Challenge

Be a light. Show how your faith community loves this planet.



**2018
Cool Congregations
Challenge Winners!**

www.CoolCongregations.org

Cool Congregations Challenge Energy Saver



www.CoolCongregations.org

Cool Congregations Challenge Renewable Role Model



Unitarian Universalist Society, Iowa

www.CoolCongregations.org

Solar + Geothermal



Unitarian Universalist Society, Coralville, Iowa

Solar + Geothermal



Unitarian Universalist Society, Coralville, Iowa

Cool Congregations Challenge

Cool Planner



Lybrook Community Ministries,
New Mexico



www.CoolCongregations.org

Cool Congregations Challenge

Sacred Grounds



Binkley Baptist Church
North Carolina

www.CoolCongregations.org

Cool Congregations Challenge Community Inspiration



First Parish Unitarian
Universalist Congregation,
Massachusetts



www.CoolCongregations.org

November 15-17, 2019



VAIPL.org



FAITHfor
CLIMATE.org



IPLdmv.org

Climate in the Pulpits 2019

“Ain't you got a right to the Tree of Life?”

¿Qué no tienes derecho al árbol de la vida? GUY CARAWAN



Find out more at: vaipl.org/climate-in-the-pulpits/



Interfaith Power & Light
A Religious Response to Global Warming



virginia interfaith
power & light

National

Sign Up for Emails

[www.interfaithpoweran
dlight.org](http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org)

For more information,
contact Sarah Paulos at
[sarahp@interfaithpowe
randlight.org](mailto:sarahp@interfaithpowerandlight.org)

Virginia Affiliate

Sign Up for Updates

vaipl.org/join-us/

For more information,
contact Kendyl

Crawford at

kcrawford@vaipl.org