

Simple Ways to Green Your Congregation

Here are some simple and inexpensive ways that congregations can be good stewards of the environment that God has provided for us.

Reducing Energy and Water Consumption

- Turn off the lights!
- Switch lights to use compact fluorescent light bulbs
- Use lamps/individual lights for task lighting
- Install faucet aerators
- Perform an energy audit (these are free in some states—ask your local energy provider)
- Buy renewable energy from your local energy provider
- Landscape with native/drought resistant plants
- Establish a ride sharing program to encourage carpooling (and regular worship attendance!)

Improving a Building's Energy Efficiency

- Install a programmable thermostat
- Install occupancy sensors to control lights
- Install LED exit signs
- Use ENERGY STAR® equipment in the office, kitchen, and mechanical room
- Use properly installed ENERGY STAR® ceiling fans
- Seal around windows and doors with caulk or weather-stripping

Reducing Waste and Eco-Friendly Cleaning

- Put recycling bins in every room
- Use reusable dishware
- Buy sustainable paper products (bleach free, 100% post consumer recycled)
- Buy Earth-friendly cleaning products

For more ideas, questions or assistance with green projects, contact the Mission Investment Fund church building consultant who serves your area.

www.elca.org/mif/buildingconsultants
877-886-3522



“God gives us and all creatures life through the water, air, food and all the other gifts that come to us from the earth. Everything we do both depends on these gifts, and has some kind of impact upon them. If these gifts are treated with contempt and abused, people, animals, and plants suffer together. If they are graciously received and cherished, people will flourish with the rest of creation. We cannot love God or our human neighbor without caring for creation. The question is not whether the church will engage what our society calls the environment, *but how.*”

*The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



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God's work. Our hands.