



## Cool Congregations:

A workshop to help your congregation reduce its carbon footprint and save energy

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Saturday, January 23, 2010

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

[Ascension Lutheran Church](#)

7333 Pfeiffer Road

Cincinnati, OH 45242

The Cool Congregations program has helped hundreds of congregations work together to reduce their carbon footprint while saving energy and money. Send a team from your congregation to learn how this workshop and toolkit can help your congregation do the same.

This workshop also serves as the education component required for congregations who wish to receive an energy audit with no up-front cost from Ohio Interfaith Power & Light (OhIPL), and qualifies your congregation for a pre-audit visit from an OhIPL volunteer who will help you complete a carbon footprint analysis and set up an EPA Portfolio Manager energy use profile and tracking system for your house of worship.

### **Resources for your Congregation**

This Cool Congregations workshop is a “train-the-trainers” event. You and/or your team will be given all the tools and knowledge you need to bring Cool Congregations back to your home congregation. The tool is fun and easy to use, and the workshop will help you develop a strategy for

successful use in your congregation. If you've been looking for the activity that would get the whole congregation involved in stewardship of the Earth, this is the workshop for you. And by following through with an energy audit, you can reduce your congregation's energy costs and carbon emissions by 10-40%.

The three-hour workshop will include breaks, talking time, and help you to understand:

- What is a Cool Congregations program?
- ABCs of global warming with Byrd Polar Research Center
- Why we care: The religious response to global warming
- Measure and find ways to reduce your own carbon footprint
- How to organize a Cool Congregations program
- How to prepare for an energy audit
- Begin plans to save energy in your congregation!

The training includes a CD with resources for success, including the specially designed computer program to calculate global warming pollution emissions from your activities, information about Portfolio Manager and the IPL congregational carbon footprint calculator, and energy efficiency and energy audit resources.

Participating congregations become eligible for a one-year no interest loan to cover the up-front cost of an audit or to make energy efficiency improvements, made possible by a grant from Ohio EPA to Ohio Interfaith Power and Light. By implementing energy conservation measures following the audit, typical congregations save 10-40% on their energy bills, which more than pays the cost of the audit, and frees up resources for other ministries (more info at [www.ohipl.org](http://www.ohipl.org)).

## FAQ about Cool Congregations

### What information do I need to bring with me?

You will need information for your entire household about:

- car make, model, mpg, and miles driven for the last 12 months ([www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov) -- provides mpg ratings)
- airplane miles flown in last 12 months ([www.webflyer.com/travel/milemarker/](http://www.webflyer.com/travel/milemarker/) -- provides miles)
- last 12 months kilowatt (kWh) total for electricity usage\*
- last 12 months heating gas (in ccf or Mcf) used, and
- garbage produced each week measured in gallons (kitchen bags are 13 gallons, large garbage bags are 33).

**\*I don't keep 12 months of utility bills. Can I get this information from my utility provider?** Yes – if your annual usage is not included on your monthly bill (it is on most bills), call your electric and gas providers and ask for a 12-month activity statement. Visit [www.puco.ohio.gov](http://www.puco.ohio.gov) to find the website of your utility, or call:

#### Electric

**American Electric Power**, Columbus Southern Power: (800) 277-2177

Ohio Power: (800) 672-2231 [www.aepohio.com](http://www.aepohio.com)

**Duke Energy Ohio**: (513) 421-9500; (800) 544-6900

<http://www.duke-energy.com>

**Dayton Power & Light**: (937) 331-3900; (800) 433-8500

[www.waytogo.com](http://www.waytogo.com)

**FirstEnergy**: (800) 589-3101 (CEI Division); (800) 633-4766 (OE

Division); (800) 447-3333 (TE Division) [www.firstenergycorp.com](http://www.firstenergycorp.com)

#### Natural Gas

**Columbia Gas**: (800) 344-4077 [www.columbiagasohio.com](http://www.columbiagasohio.com)

**Dominion East Ohio**: (800) 362-7557 [www.dom.com](http://www.dom.com)

**Duke Energy Ohio**: (800) 544-6900 [www.duke-energy.com/ohres](http://www.duke-energy.com/ohres)

**Vectren**: (800) 227-1376 [www.vectrenenergy.com](http://www.vectrenenergy.com)