

What we do!

The Interfaith Coalition on Energy (ICE) works with about 6,100 congregations within a 50-mile radius of Philadelphia's City Hall. ICE helps them reduce their energy use and cost through this newsletter, workshops, publications and on-site energy surveys. See our website www.interfaithenergy.com for more information.

ICE

Memo from a local pipe organ builder

While working with a church in South Philadelphia, we learned about a September 15, 2006 memo from the Mudler-Hunter Company, Pipe Organ Builders, 2638 W. Gordon Street, Philadelphia 19132, (215) 229-5470. We thought you might like to read it too:

“To prolong the life of the pipe organ, keep the heat as **LOW** as possible when the building is not in use. This not only adds years to the leather and other material in the instrument, but also saves on the fuel bill. When the organ is going to be used or serviced, the heat should be turned up soon enough so that the instrument is thoroughly heated, and has no cold air pockets. Cold air adversely affects the pitch and tuning, but when it is properly heated, the organ will return to the correct pitch and tune. This also keeps the wooden furniture, doors, pews, etc. from excessive drying and splitting.

“Many churches have programmable thermostats set to 50 degrees during the week. On Saturday it is set to 65 degrees. Approximately 5:00 am Sunday morning it turns up to 72 degrees or whatever you would want for a Sunday service.

“As always, we appreciate the opportunity to be of service to your church. Please call our office if you have any other questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Edward E. Schurig Jr.”



ICE

Send Us Your Stories

Over the last 25 years we have been serving congregations, we have collected a lot of stories. Like the priest who says he absolutely does not believe in clock thermostats because he wants a fixed temperature inside his church. “What temperature is that?” we asked, and he said, “50 degrees, whether it’s occupied or not.” Who can quibble?

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Or how about the church that calls its steam boiler “Chernobyl,” or how the custodian chained his Doberman to the back of his steam boiler without telling us, until we ...er... “met” in the dark basement?

We would like to receive and possibly publish your stories. Our contact information is on the front page of this newsletter.

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PA's Revised Storage Tank Regulations

On November 10, 2007, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (Department) published revisions to its storage tank regulations.

Highlights of the regulatory revisions include the following:

- Requires submission of amended registration form with 30 days following changes in tank ownership or any change in previously reported information.
- Requires underground tanks to be inspected every three years (by Department-certified inspector).
- Requires total secondary containment for new and replacement underground tank systems.
- Requires tightness testing of underground piping after November 10, 2008
- Requires double-walled tanks and piping and sumps under product dispenser and at pipe junctures.
- Allows for routine withdrawal of operating permits for tanks in temporary out-of-service status.
- Simplifies site-specific installation permit process for certain aboveground tanks.
- Requires line leak detector and automatic pump shut-off for specified tank systems.
- Revises the financial responsibility provisions and the training provisions of the Tank Installer, Inspector, and Company Certification Program.

NEED MORE INFORMATION? Please contact William Kesack at 610-828-3078.

E-mail: wkesack@iesengineers.com

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AQUA Rate Increase

Aqua Pennsylvania, formerly Philadelphia Suburban Water Company has filed for a rate increase with the PUC. Contrary to their claim of a 13.6% increase, the proposed meter charges are increased by over 17% and the water consumption charges are increased by 20%. When the Distribution System Improvement Charge (DSIC) is factored in, the increase can be 5% more. Thus, the real dollar increase proposed is closer to 25%.

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From a Unitarian Minister

“In years to come, as our children and grandchildren grow up in a dangerously deteriorating world, they will ask us the same terrible questions asked after the abolition of slavery, after the fall of the Third Reich, after the civil rights movement finally put an end to the shame of legal segregation the same awful and incredulous questions asked of every human being complacent in the face of evil: How could you not have known? Knowing what you knew, how could you have failed to act?”

- Reverend Fred Small, First Church Unitarian, Littleton, Massachusetts

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Catholics Caring for Creation

Pope Benedict XVI, saying "We can't simply do whatever we want with this earth that has been entrusted to us," has declared the Vatican to be the first carbon-neutral state. Vatican City will install more than 1,000 solar panels in 2008. In addition, the Hungarian Company Klimafa donated a climate forest to offset Vatican emissions: 27 acres of degraded land by the River Tisza will be reforested with native species. (www.yesmagazine.org print edition, winter 2008, p. 9).

Earlier, after the 12/8/1989 foundation statement from Pope John Paul II, "The Ecological Crisis: A Common Responsibility," and his 1990 "World Day of Peace" foundation statement, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issued a Pastoral Statement (11/14/1991), "An Invitation to Reflection and Action on Environment in Light of Catholic Social Teaching." This was one beginning of their environmental justice program (ejp) within their Social Development and World Peace (sdwp) focus. See www.usccb.org/sdwp/ejp/bishopsstatement.shtml .

A parish resource kit, "Peace with God the Creator, Peace with all Creation" is available from the USCCB office of publication services, 3211 4th St., N.E., Washington DC 20017, 202-541-3180 or 800-235-8722.

JCE

What to do with electronic trash?

Now there is one place to responsibly and securely dispose of all your computer-related waste, spent supplies and obsolete accessories. GreenDisk handles all your technotrash disposal needs from a CD to a PC and just about everything in between. See www.greendisk.com

Return Those PCs in Storage

You might have old computers in your attic and basement. Check out www.computertakeback.com for how to recycle them. Also, Staples office supply store will accept any computer for a \$10 fee.



JCE

National Association of Evangelicals Takes ENERGY STAR Challenge

On November 6, 2007 the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), representing millions of Americans from 61 denominations and tens of thousands of churches, took an important step towards protecting the environment and saving its congregations millions of dollars in energy costs. By taking the ENERGY STAR Challenge, the NAE is committed to helping its churches, member denominations, organizations and academic institutions achieve a ten percent or more reduction in energy use.

The NAE held a luncheon in Eden Prairie, MN at Wooddale Church with over 60 local pastors and church building managers to discuss how churches should be leaders in the areas of energy efficiency and creation care.

"If America's more than 300,000 houses of worship cut energy use by ten percent, they would save nearly \$200 million each year – money that could be used for missions and other priorities," says Richard Cizik, Vice President of Governmental Affairs for the NAE. "It would also prevent the annual release of more than 2 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions, which is equivalent to the emissions generated by about 400,000 cars or the planting of over a half million acres of trees."

JCE

From ICE supporters:

Excellent energy report!!!! Our potential energy cost savings are substantial and the initial investment modest. It really is win-win. Thanks, you have done extremely well for our church!!!!

Roger Olson, Pine Street Church

Again many thanks for your very intensive and informative review.

Joseph Scott, Unionville Presbyterian Church

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THE INTERFAITH COALITION ON ENERGY



There are a number of reasons to give money to us:

- You may have extra money lying around, and you don't know what to do with it.
- Perhaps you want to support an energy conservation organization that solely represents the interests of people of faith.
- Maybe you like ICE; maybe one of our articles or a phone conversation saved your congregation money.
- Your contribution is tax-deductible.

Whatever your reasons, please send ICE a check so that we may continue to serve.

ICE, 7217 Oak Avenue, Melrose Park, PA 19027

Thanks. ICE