

Newsletter 84

Fall 2002

The Bible and Our Environment

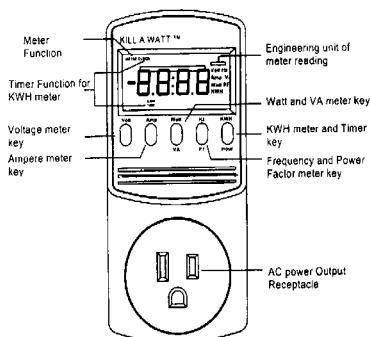
Years in the assembling, Fred Krueger, Campaign coordinator for the Religious Campaign for Forest Conservation in California (www.creationethics.org) has compiled a list of about 500 references to the environment from the Old and New Testaments. He has authorized ICE to sell these for \$5 each, including postage and handling. Fred Krueger believes that a complete list includes about 800 entries. In addition to the list available through ICE, Fred Krueger sells an annotated list directly to those who wish to send \$22 made out to RCFC, 409 Mendocino Avenue, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95401.



EPA Award

The national office of the Environmental Protection Agency is giving the Interfaith Coalition on Energy (ICE) an award for its service as an environmental organization. The award states, in part, that "ICE was formed 22 years ago in Philadelphia by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia the Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia, the Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia, and the Philadelphia Chapter American Jewish Committee. This makes ICE one of the oldest, if not the oldest, operating interfaith energy-environmental organization on the national scene, and remains a leading national advocate for congregational energy conservation and improved energy efficiency. As a nonprofit organization, ICE is funded primarily by fees for energy survey services, publication sales, and contributions. ICE publishes a popular workbook, and a quarterly newsletter *Comfort & Light*. Since its inception in 1980, ICE has provided on-site consulting to more than 550 congregations in and around Philadelphia, presented more than 100 workshops on energy and maintenance cost savings for congregations, published original research documents, and provided rate case testimony on congregational electric, natural gas and water utility rates in Philadelphia. ICE has also provided comments on national building codes applicable to house of worship, and helps congregations find and retain qualified maintenance personnel. ICE gathers energy and building data for each survey and lets the data "lead" to recommendations to reduce energy use. Following ICE's principles, similar organizations have surveyed hundreds more congregation buildings nationally."

Kill-a-Watt



A new electricity monitor is now on the market and it's called Kill-A-Watt. You can measure the electricity used by lamps, cordless phones, refrigerators, freezers, VCRs, etc. Your congregation can order one for about \$40 from Radio Shack or through the Energy Federation at 800-876-0660, or from their website at www.efi.org.



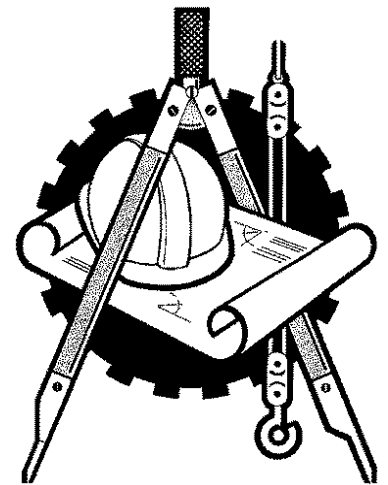
Request for support

If we have helped your congregation reduce its energy costs, please consider sending a donation to ICE, 7217 Oak Avenue, Melrose Park, PA 19027. We are supported almost totally by people of faith. Thank you.

Planning to build (or not to)?

The Interfaith Coalition on Energy has produced a few publications advising congregations about energy options in planning to renovate or add to existing buildings or build new ones. In addition, the following is a review of five books from other sources, listed in our opinion of most important listed first:

1. Before building, do you know how the congregation feels about its future? The *Church Planning Inventory* from Hartford Seminary solicits 180 multiple-choice responses to either questions or statements. By analyzing the results, a congregation can see the demographics of its memberships, its intent to stay or move on, satisfaction with programs, facilities and ministry – plus a lot more. The Hartford Seminary will sell copies of the inventory at 40 cents each and analyze a returned set for \$2.50 per tabulated questionnaire. They also charge a one time administrative fee of \$75. To obtain a free copy of their inventory, you can write the Hartford Institute for Religion Research, 77 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105. Their phone is (860) 509-9543 and their email is mross@HARTSEM.EDU. The Hartford Seminary also has inventories for pastoral search and parish profiles.
2. *When Not to Build* is written by Eddy Hall and church architect turned consultant Ray Bowman, who estimates that “nine out of ten churches that have called me thinking they needed to build have a better, less costly alternative.” The main purpose of their book *When Not to Build* is to encourage congregations to think, prioritize and pray before they start planning to build. (Baker Book House, 2000, ISBN 0801091063) .
3. Kennon Callahan is famous for helping congregations plan to grow. He also has a book about “bricks and mortar issues” called *Building for Effective Mission*. Following his logic, congregations view their facilities only as an outcome of their mission. Callahan starts by helping congregations to consider why they exist in the first place. Then, he describes choosing sites, teams to plan construction, and architects, and also how to raise money for construction. Very clear writing. (Jossey-Bass, 1995, ISBN 0787938726).
4. Gwenn McCormick wrote *Planning and Building Church Facilities* in 1992 (Boardman Press, ISBN 0805430113). With two chapters written by architect Steven Newton, this book includes discussion on space utilization, accessibility, system approaches to construction (design-build, construction management, spec and bid and package builders), rules of thumb and interview questions for architects.
5. *Firm Foundations* is written by a minister (Lance Moore) and an architect (Daniel Michal) and approaches construction more by systems – site, materials, mechanicals, worship center, sound systems, fellowship hall, nursery, offices and kitchen. They also have chapters on the overall process and finishes and furnishings. (CSS Publishing, ISBN 0788013459)



Our point in publishing this list is that for less than \$100, these five books provide a congregation with advice that could save thousands of dollars of construction or renovation costs. One additional observation – none of these books adequately covers controlling energy costs, which is why we exist – to fill in that gap.

And Now -- Commercial Refrigerators are rated by EnergyStar!

Congregations often have commercial kitchens in which food must be cooled more quickly than would happen with a residential style refrigerator. While residential refrigerators have been regulated by federal standards to use less and less electricity, commercial refrigerators have been exempt... until now. The Environmental Protection Agency, has recently added commercial solid door refrigerators and freezers to the EnergyStar family, joining appliances ranging from ceiling fans, air conditioners, and water coolers to consumer electronics. Commercial solid door refrigerators and freezers with the EnergyStar label meet EPA and DOE specifications, ensuring reduced energy costs as a result of reduced energy consumption.

These appliances are more-energy efficient because they are designed with components such as evaporator and condenser fan motors, hot gas anti-sweat heaters, or high-efficiency compressors, which will significantly reduce energy consumption and utility bills. Compared to standard models, EnergyStar-labeled commercial solid door refrigerators and freezers can lead to energy savings of as much as 46 percent with a 1.3 year payback.

For more information, contact Rachel Schmeltz at schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov

But Where Are the Efficient Refrigerators?

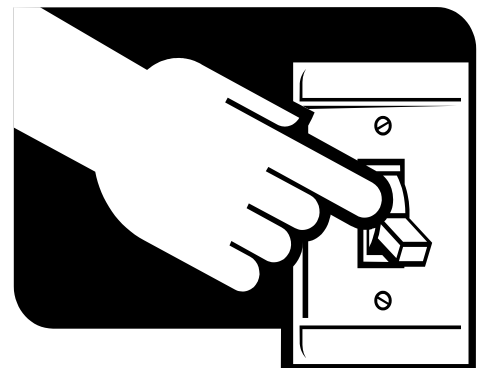
A member of Mt. Holly Friends Meeting called ICE to ask where to purchase a small EnergyStar refrigerator to replace an old large one. We referred him to lists on the web and suggested a visit to Sears. He found that Sears and Best Buys don't carry the better small refrigerators and their salespeople weren't very helpful, so he called one of the manufacturers to find out how to obtain their most efficient model. Of the dealers suggested by the manufacturer, the chains were not interested, but a local appliance store was willing to place an order for this model. It will be delivered in a few weeks for \$460, \$30 below the list price, plus only \$30 for delivery and removing the old refrigerator. The Meeting expects to save enough on their electric bill to pay for the new refrigerator in two years! How can you beat that! They found the most helpful list of residential refrigerators was at www.energystar.gov/products/refrigerators/, and that persistence is worth it.

Cautions about contracts with electric suppliers

ICE Board Member Larry Spielvogel advises the following:

Several Electric Generation Suppliers (EGS) are marketing deregulated electricity to PECO customers with what may look to be attractive prices. However, be very careful with those offers, especially this winter. Some EGS suggest that customers ask their local utility to provide the Shopping Credit or Price to Compare for their accounts. However, most of the information provided may be general and not be relevant to each individual account or it may be an average for the past 12 months. When EGS make offers, they are often not for 12 months, so it is not possible to compare those offers with the Price to Compare for the account from the local utility. Many of these EGS offers are higher than the Shopping Credit or Price to Compare.

Some of those offers are for odd terms, such as 17 or 29 months, usually ending in May, when it has frequently been difficult to find replacement suppliers at reasonable prices. Thus, it is often necessary to revert to the Provider of Last Resort (PLR), who typically requires staying with them for a minimum of 12 months, or imposes penalty charges every month for up to a year for anyone served by them in any summer month.

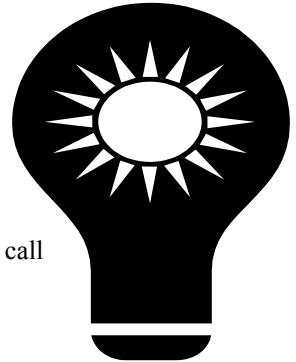


Most of these EGS do not mention the fact that penalty charges can or will be imposed if the customer switches before May 2003. These penalty charges are over and above any EGS price or Price to Compare, and can amount to as much as two cents per kilowatthour for all kilowatthours used. Thus, unless the EGS price is that much lower than the PLR price, it will be more costly to switch than to remain with the local utility. The EGS do not tell this to customers.

Also, be very careful with EGS contract terms. With market prices close to those charged by the PLR, EGS are putting more pricing and other risks on their customers, to make their pricing look at all attractive. Some contracts allow the EGS to unilaterally stop service, which can often happen in a summer month, and which can result in reversion to the PLR, and exposure to the penalties described above.

Increased Rebates for Solar Electric Systems

In April 2002, the Sustainable Development Fund increased its rebates for solar electric (photovoltaic, or PV) systems by 33% from \$3 per installed watt to \$4. They also increased the grant limit from \$8,000 to \$25,000. Depending on the roof orientation and shading, a 5,000-watt PV system may cost about \$38,000. The grant would pay \$20,000 upfront for such a system, and if it produced its expected 5,000 kilowatthours in its first year, the congregation would be paid an additional \$5,000. The total would be about two-thirds of the installed cost. For more information call 215-635-0900 or visit the SDF website www.trfund.com/sdf/solarpv.



Energetic thoughts...

From *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* by William Blake

Without Contraries there is no Progression.
Attraction and Repulsion, Reason and Energy, Love and Hate,
are necessary to Human existence.

From these Contraries spring what the religious call Good and Evil
Good is the passive that obeys Reason.
Evil is the active springing from Energy.
Good is Heaven, Evil is Hell.

From *The Unquiet Grave* by Cyril Connolly

It is more important, in fact, to be good than to do good things because being, rather than doing, is the state which keeps us in tune with the order of things. Hence Pascal's reflection that all the evil of the world comes from men not being able to sit quietly in a room. Good is the retention of energy; evil a waste of it, energy which is taken away from growth. Like water, we are truest to our nature in repose.

Booklet on Replacing Windows

ICE has a booklet on replacing windows. We consider the economics of the energy savings based on estimates from *Consumer Reports* magazine (included) along with alternatives to replacement. As with most of our reports, we charge \$5, which includes postage and handling.