

## **Statistics on Religious Buildings Used for Worship**

Every few years, the Department of Energy gathers information about a statistically significant number of commercial buildings. They analyze the data and publish CBECS, the Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey. See [www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cbecs/cbecs2003/detailed\\_tables\\_2003/detailed\\_tables\\_2003.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cbecs/cbecs2003/detailed_tables_2003/detailed_tables_2003.html). The last CBECS was in 2003 and included data from a sample of 370 buildings used for religious worship. Most of them were relatively small. Here is the floor area for most of them:

<b>Floor Area</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>(%)</b>
• Less than 5,000 square feet	152	41%
• 5,001 to 10,000 square feet	104	28%
• 10,001 to 25,000 square feet	83	22%
• 25,001 to 50,000 square feet	27	7%

Only 24 of them had elevators. Two thirds were open less than 40 hours per week. A third of them were not occupied by the owners. Two thirds had brick, stone or stucco exterior wall coverings. Two thirds had shingles (non wood) roofs. About a third of them had been renovated since 1980. Of those, 44% upgraded their HVAC equipment, 43% had upgraded their lighting, and 30% had replaced at least some of their windows. 60% were heated by natural gas. 52% were heated by furnaces (warm air systems). Just under half had no computer. About 12% had more than one computer. Almost half had no photocopier. Over 90% controlled their heating equipment to reduce usage when the building was not in full use.

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## **About 30,000 PECO Commercial Customers still Pay for 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Electricity**

And they are likely paying more than necessary. ICE would like to advocate on behalf of religious congregations who are being overcharged. The deregulation of electricity used to save us money, but that has changed. To try to get the Pennsylvania Small Business Advocate to address the fact that there are still more than 30,000 PECO commercial customers buying third party electric generation and are overpaying, we need (1) customers who will allow themselves to be identified, (2) a copy of the letter from their supplier (received about November 2005) telling them the prices would increase, and (3) copies of their actual electric bills in 2006. If you are willing to cooperate, send copies of the above information to ICE at the address on the front page of this newsletter.

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## **Gas contract evaluations**

Similarly, ICE would like to advocate for better terms in third party gas contracts. For those congregations who can only burn gas and who contracted to buy gas from a third party supplier, it would be valuable to do building by building comparisons between what they actually paid this past winter compared with what they would have paid had they continued to buy gas from their regulated gas company.

To do the comparisons, they would have to include copies of gas contracts showing terms and conditions, as well as actual gas bills from both the utility and the supplier. If you are willing to cooperate, send copies of the above information to ICE at the address on the front page of this newsletter. Also, realize that the quantity of

gas billed by the supplier is usually greater than the quantity metered. The comparisons should be done by an independent party, and the results reported anonymously. Full 12-month analyses should be done.

The results should show the advantages and disadvantages, as well as the percentage saved or the premium paid to use a third party supplier. This would assist congregations in making decisions for future years, and provide encouragement to suppliers to modify their terms and conditions to make them more customer-friendly. ICE

## An Electricity-saving Device for Vending Machines

The VendingMiser is a small, easy-to-install device that helps reduce energy use of refrigerated Vending Machines for things like soda, water and juice. According to their website, the average annual documented savings are 46% per year, giving a payback of under 2 years, and often under 1 year, depending on your utility rate. There are three vending machine products:

- VendingMiser (For refrigerated vending machines)
- CoolerMiser (For refrigerated glass front coolers)
- SnackMiser (For non-refrigerated snack and candy machines)

The design criteria for the Miser product family is to save you money with zero impact on operations or convenience. No lost sales, no warm drinks (for VendingMiser and CoolerMiser) and no inconvenience. Facility occupants likely won't even know they are there. If a person can see a machine, the Miser sees them, and the vendor is powered up. When the facility is unoccupied, you save money! There are over 300,000 VendingMisers installed on refrigerated cold drink machines in North America now, and the numbers are rising fast. Excellent savings potential exist for K-12, colleges, universities, hotels, arenas and sports complexes and any location or organization with multiple machines.

Call them toll free at 1-877-766-5412 if you have any questions. Or visit [www.vendingmiserstore.com](http://www.vendingmiserstore.com)



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## Pope warns against environmental damage, says it burdens world's poor

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (Catholic News Service) -- On August 28, 2006, Pope Benedict XVI delivered a strong warning against environmental damage, saying it was aggravating the already heavy burden on the world's poor. The pope, speaking at his summer villa outside Rome Aug. 27, expressed support for the Italian church's first day dedicated to the protection of creation, which was to be celebrated Sept. 1. The pope said the created world was a great gift of God but is presently "exposed to serious risks by life choices and lifestyles that can degrade it."

"In particular, environmental degradation makes poor people's existence intolerable," he said. The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church says the world's poor, who often live in polluted slums, are connected to the environmental crisis. In cases of poverty and hunger, it is "virtually impossible" to avoid environmental exploitation, said the 2004 social doctrine. Pope Benedict said, "In dialogue with Christians of various churches, we need to commit ourselves to caring for the created world, without squandering its resources, and sharing them in a cooperative way."

The Italian initiative aimed to promote the church's teaching on care for the environment. In churches throughout the country, the faithful were being asked to pray and to meditate on ecological damage. In July, the pope sent a message to Ecumenical Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, praising his efforts in reminding Christians of their duty to protect the environment. In that message, the pope warned that the ecological balance of the Amazon region was under threat. ICE

## Many Faiths Join In Eco-Friendly Attitudes

From the Associated Press - around July 8, 2006 – an article by Brian Murphy:

Eco-friendly attitudes have increasingly moved into the mainstream of many faiths -- from Muslim clerics urging water conservation in the fast-growing Gulf states to evangelical preachers in the United States calling attention to global warming.

Next week, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I will lead another high-profile group of religious leaders, scientists and activists on a trip to examine the interplay of faith and ecology. The weeklong voyage along the Amazon starting Thursday will be Bartholomew's sixth green journey since the first in 1995 to the Greek island of Patmos -- where biblical tradition says the book of Revelation was compiled.

The efforts of Bartholomew and others have energized some of the most lively theological explorations in recent years -- with fresh studies and interpretation of Scripture along environmental lines. The global movement also offers rare common ground for religious groups at a time of confrontation on issues from gay clergy to suspicions between the Muslim world and the West....

Evidence of an expanding environmental ethos can be found in nearly every faith. In New York, the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life draws clear links between Judaic traditions and the battles to ease global warming. In China, a Buddhist conference in April urged greater emphasis on environmental protection. Hindu religious scholars have raised alarms about possible environmental fallout from the rapid modernization in India....

In Iran, Grand Ayatollah Yusef Saanei said it was "the duty of every Muslim" to protect the environment. Many fatwas, or religious edicts, across the Muslim world echo similar Quranic readings that God entrusted humans to protect the earth. "Religion is built on storytelling. The stories reach people in ways that academics or activists or NGOs cannot," said Victoria Finlay, a spokeswoman for the Alliance of Religions and Conservation, a London-based group founded by Prince Philip, the husband of Queen Elizabeth. "It took a while for the two sides to begin to understand each other. But now the NGOs and others recognize what a powerful force religion can play...."

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## Global Warming Basics

The national and international discussion about global warming is growing. The Pew Center for Global Climate Change offers an interesting website for those seeking a comprehensive overview of climate change to increase their own understanding. A web-link format helps users find information quickly and easily. Visit the site for more information. Visit [www.pewclimate.org/global-warming-basics/](http://www.pewclimate.org/global-warming-basics/).

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## Better workspaces -- Men vs. Women

The May 29, 2006 issue of Business Week magazine reported on a poll of 850 workers at companies that had 100 or more employees. The polling company wanted to determine how to change the surroundings of the employees in order to improve their productivity. About 45% said they work best if they had a private office. Women "listed eight attributes as having a 'high impact' on productivity, including privacy, natural light, and the option of personalizing the space. Men just named one: The ability to control the air conditioning or heat."

In other words, men want their own thermostat, while that doesn't even make the women's list.

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## From a long-time ICE supporter:

I hope all is well with you.... Enclosed is a contribution of \$200. Keep up the good work!  
Best regards,

*Carroll Weinberg*, MD.

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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