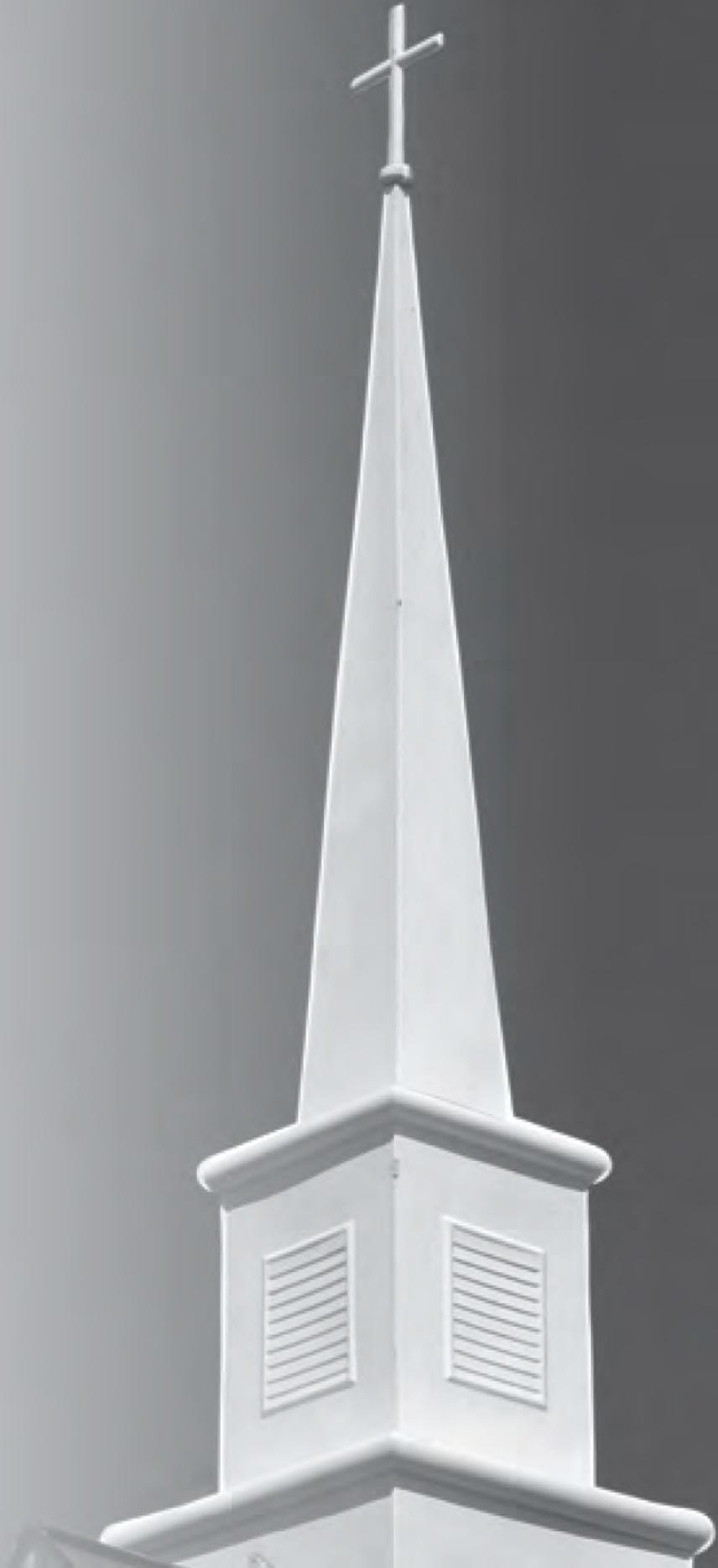


a financial education workshop

Going Green



United Church of Christ
CORNERSTONE
FUND



Welcome!



Gordon Gilles
President & CEO
 The Cornerstone Fund

After years of working with pastors and lay leaders around the country, the Cornerstone Fund staff realized we could serve UCC churches in a new way: offering a series of seminars and workshops to help pastors and lay leaders develop their comfort and skill with church management issues. This course is intended as a simple overview and idea generator — a means to equip more women and men for participation in the environmental lives of their churches, associations and conferences.

After all, our business is helping churches grow and live into their missions. Founded in 1995, the Cornerstone Fund was created to offer real-estate secured loans to established, UCC-related churches and organizations. Working much like a bank, the Cornerstone Fund offers interest-bearing investments to UCC conferences, associations, related organizations and churches — as well as individual members. Those investments are used in turn to fund loans and equity lines of credit secured by a church's real estate. By participating in the Cornerstone Fund, investors enjoy a competitive rate of return, while ensuring funds are always available to churches seeking to make capital improvements and expand their ministries. When churches borrow from the Cornerstone Fund, they participate in a ministry that supports the mission of sister churches across the country.

Thank you for your participation in this educational element of our ministry. We're glad you're here today, and we welcome your comments and suggestions as you put your new knowledge to use!

In preparing the materials for this workshop, the Cornerstone Fund has relied on a range of information widely available from environmental not-for-profits and the US Government. The use of these materials falls within the Fair Use guidelines of copyright law, and a list of sources is available at the end of this document. The Cornerstone Fund provides these materials in good faith, but makes no guarantees of accuracy. Please consult appropriate professionals before beginning significant changes or improvements.



A Basic Vocabulary

Almost every endeavor, from poetry to medicine to theology, has its own vocabulary. Following are a few concepts that may not be familiar to you.

CARBON FOOTPRINT

A carbon footprint measures the impact human activities have on the environment, calculating the amount of greenhouse gases produced in units of carbon dioxide.

COMPACT FLUORESCENT LAMPS

CFLs are fluorescent bulbs with traditional screw-in fixtures that allow them to replace incandescent bulbs and use 75% less energy. While slightly more expensive, CFLs last up to 10 times longer than traditional bulbs. CFLs contain a small amount of mercury, so should be recycled if possible.

ENERGY AUDIT

This service, often available at little or no cost from your local energy company, evaluates buildings to determine where energy is being lost unnecessarily or can be saved.

FLUORESCENT LIGHTING

Those 1.5”-diameter bulbs standard in offices, schools and other buildings may be four times more efficient than incandescent bulbs, but these classic (T12) fluorescents have been replaced by T8 (1” dia.) and T5 (5/8” dia.) lamps that offer improved efficiency, higher intensity, less flicker and hum, and potentially longer life due to reduced degradation in light output over time.

GREENHOUSE GAS

Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere are often called greenhouse gases. Some gases occur naturally and are emitted into the atmosphere through natural processes and human activities. Others are created and emitted solely through human activities. The principal green-

house gases that enter the atmosphere because of human activities are carbon dioxide (CO²), methane (CH⁴), nitrous oxide (N²O) and fluorinated gases. Greenhouse gases are often measured as “pounds” — a standard that calculates the amount of gas produced per pound of production.

HALOGEN LAMPS

A more advanced incandescent lamp technology, halogen bulbs produce a “white” light and are popularly used to highlight merchandise and architectural features.

HVAC SYSTEMS

The HVAC acronym stands for Heating, Ventilating and Air-Conditioning.

INCANDESCENT LIGHTING

Thomas Edison’s 1879 technology remains dominant today in classic light bulbs. Simple but inefficient, those regular bulbs are better heaters than lights – nearly 90% of the energy to light these bulbs is lost in waste heat!

LED: LIGHT-EMITTING DIODE

Often used in exit signs, these durable and efficient bulbs generate very little heat and last much longer than incandescent bulbs.



Energy Star

The ENERGY STAR program, a joint program of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the US Department of Energy, was introduced in 1992 to increase the energy efficiency of household products and appliances and reduce their greenhouse-gas emissions.

From an initial focus on the efficiency of computers and monitors, the program now covers more than 60 kinds of products, including televisions, washing machines and furnaces. To qualify for ENERGY STAR certification, a product has to be more energy-efficient — 10% to 80% more efficient, depending on the item — than the federal minimum for its category.

ENERGY STAR Buildings

Buildings can also qualify for ENERGY STAR certification. The ENERGY STAR website provides free tools and resources to help you measure the energy use of your church and to compare your facility with others. The EPA's free online tool Portfolio Manager will calculate a score for your building on a scale of 1-100 — and buildings that score 75 or greater may qualify for the ENERGY STAR.

If your church scores less than 75, the EPA's Guidelines for Energy Management can assist you with step-by-step improvements by helping your organization make a commitment, assess your building energy performance, set goals, create and implement an action plan, evaluate your progress, and recognize your achievements. EPA provides many other free Web-based tools including calculators, guidelines, and training modules to improve your church's energy performance. By implementing many low- or no-cost solutions, your facility can reduce its energy use by up to 30 percent!

While your church may not consider certification essential, improving your building's efficiency can benefit your church in three ways —

- You'll be doing your part to fight global warming by using less energy.
- You'll improve your bottom line with increased energy savings.
- You'll show the world that your church is committed to reducing its impact on the environment, doing what's right for creation and for future generations.

A few fun facts

- A typical house produces twice the greenhouse emissions of a car.
- Buildings are responsible for more than 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- Since 2000, the EPA reports consumers have purchased three billion ENERGY STAR products.
- The EPA estimates ENERGY STAR products saved US consumers \$17 billion on their energy bills in 2009.

SOURCES —

- www.energystar.gov
- "Milestones in Green Consuming," *The Wall Street Journal*, April 17, 2010



Why Go Green?

For most congregations, “going green” sounds like the right thing to do. Whether their support begins in a general concern for the environment, a commitment to caring for God’s Creation, or a desire to save money, most members support the idea of Going Green.

But then what? Where do you begin? How much will it cost?

As with many changes in a congregation, one of the best places to start is with conversation and Bible study –

- What does the Bible say about our responsibility to the Earth?
- What does our church mission statement say that might give us guidance?
- Why are members of our church concerned that we address environmental issues?
- What does Going Green mean for our church in particular?
- How will the changes we’re talking about make a difference – both for our church and for our people?

To get your congregation thinking and talking about Going Green, consider the following ideas –

- Identify a resource that can be used by Sunday School or other groups, and encourage study over a period of weeks. One option available online: *It’s God’s World: Christians, Care for Creation and Global Warming*, an 18-page guide published by The Eco-Justice Working Group of the National Council of Churches that contains a series of study topics and guides.
- Encourage your pastor to preach on passages related to Creation, like Genesis 1:1-2:3, Psalm 24 and 148, or even Jeremiah 4.
- Consider a church Green Day with workshops, discussion and hands-on projects.

- Bring in a local expert or advocate to talk about environmental concerns in your city or region.
- Start a prayer group to focus particularly on petitions for the environment and eco-justice.
- Youth are concerned about the earth. Look for ways to allow them to take the lead as the congregation thinks about Going Green.
- Dedicate a Sunday service to environmental stewardship, with liturgy and music that celebrates God’s Creation.

Ten Reasons to Go Green

from *Building a Firm Foundation*, a publication of The Eco-Justice Working Group of the National Council of Churches

1. Reduce energy use (and costs!)
2. Protect open space and valuable natural habitats
3. Reduce our church’s contributions to global warming
4. Keep our church safe and healthy
5. Reduce the use of toxic substances that leach into the environment
6. Lessen pressure on the local water supply
7. Reduce runoff into local waterways (which improves the habitat for fish and wildlife)
8. Reduce mining and timber harvesting
9. Advance environmental justice issues
10. Connect the congregation with Creation



Getting Started

While Going Green may sound like a big undertaking, many churches find they can start small – with virtually no expense. In fact, what most find is that even small changes can save the church money. The key is to make changes in the right order.

The US Environmental Protection Agency has created an information-rich website that offers a wide range of publications and resources, including some just for congregations like the *EnergyStar For Congregations Guide*, which recommends five steps for “Prioritizing Your Projects” –

1 LIGHTING

Many buildings spend as much as half of their energy on lighting. And lighting can be such an inexpensive place to make a start that ends up creating savings!

1. This seems so obvious, but... **Turn off lights** and other equipment when not in use. Computers, monitors and printers can drain energy even when they’re “asleep.”
2. **Avoid overlighting**, and adjust light to your actual needs. Sometimes natural light is sufficient, or can be supplemented with just half of the lights we normally turn on. The glare from overlighting can cause eyestrain and headaches, in addition to energy waste.
3. **Install switch plate “occupancy sensors”** in restrooms, hallways and other locations. The lights go on when a person is present then off when they leave the room, ensuring lights aren’t left on inadvertently.
4. Replace incandescent bulbs with **compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs)** in your lighting fixtures. CFLs use two-thirds less energy and last 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs – and emit 70% less heat! One bulb can save \$30 in energy costs over its life. Be sure to dispose of CFLs carefully, as they

contain a small amount of mercury. Look for local outlets (like IKEA stores) where you can recycle CFLs.

5. Install brighter but more efficient **light emitting diodes (LEDs) exit signs**, which save money and prevent up to 500 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.
6. Use a lot of 1.5” diameter fluorescent bulbs? Consider **an upgrade to more efficient T-8 (1” dia.) or T-5 (5/8” dia.) fluorescents**.
7. Remember the outside lights as well. Consider **photocell or motion detection lights** for safety and other lighting that remains on only at night.

Be sure to make lighting changes before you consider upgrading cooling systems. More efficient lighting means less heat for your air conditioner to overcome – your church might end up needing a smaller unit than you initially estimated.

2 BUILDING TUNE-UP

Ensure your energy systems are working efficiently by addressing maintenance and small repairs. For some projects, you may need to call in a contractor or other expert.

1. **Clean equipment and replace air filters** regularly, particularly during peak usage seasons. Dirty filters overwork your equipment and increase your energy costs.
2. Obtain an **annual maintenance contract** for your HVAC system to ensure it continues to operate at peak performance.
3. Install **programmable thermostats** to automate your HVAC systems – and be sure people know how to operate the thermostats. Consider posting clear instructions in case special events or power outages create a need for overrides or new programming.



Taking the Next Steps

3 LOAD REDUCTION

Many strategies for reducing energy use are just common sense, and can make a big difference with little or no investment.

1. **Seal cracks in windows or ducts** to reduce the amount of climate-controlled air that escapes through poorly sealed windows and doors. And keep exterior doors closed!
2. In summer, reduce indoor heat gain with **window shades or film**, awnings or window-shading landscaping.
3. Moving air can make a room feel cooler and less humid. Use fans to keep air circulating, and consider box fans in windows when the air outside permits (but do watch out for allergens!)
4. Establish procedures to ensure **equipment and lights are turned off** when people leave.
5. Begin to **replace old TVs and appliances**. A new refrigerator is 60% more energy efficient than a pre-1998 model, and 40% more efficient than models made in 2002.
6. **Clean refrigerator coils** twice a year and replace door gaskets if a dollar bill can slip easily through the seal when the door is closed.
7. When purchasing new equipment – from computers to refrigerators – select products bearing the **EnergyStar label**, which use 10-15% less energy (and water) than standard models.
8. **Request an “energy audit”** from your local energy company. Often available at little or no cost, this service can help you identify where your building is leaking energy and costing you money.
9. Does your church have a pipe organ whose care means big bucks for heating and cooling? Visit the American Institute of Organ-builders (pipeorgan.org) for their *Guidelines for Pipe Organ Temperature Control*.

4 HVAC SYSTEM

Now that you’ve reduced the energy your church consumes and have started to see some real savings, it’s time to consider the bigger fish. Fortunately, the changes you’ve already made can reduce costs going forward. In Step 4, **evaluate the efficiency of the fans and pumps** that circulate your air. Repairs and improvements here can help delay the need for a full-scale system replacement.

5 HEATING & COOLING PLANT

Now that your building uses less energy, your heating and cooling needs may be well-served by smaller, more efficient HVAC units. Because this step is the most costly, and can depend on your success in steps 1-4, be sure to consider this step last. And remember that an EnergyStar system can save up to 20% on HVAC costs.

SOURCE: *EnergyStar for Congregations*
energystar.gov/congregations

In some communities, energy companies offer grants for energy-related upgrades. Check with your local provider to see if your church might be able to take advantage of such a program.



Beyond Energy

Reducing our impact on the environment means more than just using fewer lights and turning up the air conditioner.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

You can prevent waste and reduce your impact on the environment in a number of ways —

- Reduce paper waste by duplexing documents. Many printers and copiers offer a two-sided printing option, which will reduce the amount of paper you use.
- Collect and reuse the unprinted side of single-sided documents (non-confidential, of course).
- Re-use printer ink cartridges where refilling services are available.
- Look for EnergyStar computers and other equipment when making new purchases.
- Save and reuse packing boxes and stuffing materials. If your church has no need for the boxes, collect them in a particular area where congregants can both donate and obtain boxes.
- Reuse or donate office furniture and supplies that you no longer need. Or consider holding occasional “swap” days where congregants can trade goods.
- Choose recycled and/or biodegradable products where possible. And set up recycling bins in garbage collection points.
- Do people in your church carpool? Consider sponsoring a carpool sign-up, which might have the added benefit of creating new relationships among congregants.
- Begin a community recycling ministry by creating a drop-site for old electronics, cell phones, batteries and even CFLs.
- Find out if a clothing ministry in your area sells no-longer-wearable donations to manufacturers who buy by-the-pound for upholstery and other materials.

Protect Natural Water Resources

In the US, most of us take water for granted: we access it easily and we know our water is generally safe. But as recent years have shown, our water complacency may well be misplaced.

- Whenever possible, use non-toxic and water-based products and cleaners.
- Properly dispose of unwanted chemicals at a hazardous waste collection center.
- Use low-flow faucets, shower heads and toilets, and install water-saving dishwashers. Consider waterless urinals for men’s rooms.
- Repair leaking faucets, toilets and pumps.
- Avoid over-watering your grounds, and use slow-watering techniques that reduce runoff and are 20% more effective than sprinklers.

Landscape for Longevity

While manicured lawns create a beautiful setting for a church, lawn maintenance can drain water resources, pollute the air with mower exhaust, and introduce toxins from pesticides and fertilizers into the groundwater.

- Choose plants and grasses that grow well in your area with minimal maintenance. Use native plant species as ground cover instead of grass, and plant native trees and shrubs.
- Preserve trees and plants and restore bare patches to prevent soil erosion.
- Use naturally low areas to increase water infiltration and decrease run-off.
- Vary the vegetation on the grounds to create habitats for wildlife. Create a natural space like a rock or water garden.
- Leave lawn clippings on the grass to recycle nutrients or compost them to reduce waste in landfills (Grass clippings comprise 20% of solid municipal waste collected!)



- Consider a church composting program for natural fertilization of the grounds.
- Use mulched paths where appropriate, and consider paving that permits water to be absorbed rather than becoming run-off.

SOURCES: National Wildlife Federation
US Environmental Protection Agency

Xeriscape™

Often heard as *zero-scape*, Xeriscape derives its name from the Greek word *xeros* meaning “dry” — and speaks to water-efficient landscaping that’s appropriate to the local natural environment. Xeriscapes require less maintenance and just a third of the water needed for traditional landscapes, with some xeric plants requiring almost no supplemental watering once established. While often mis-characterized as rock-and-cactus gradens, Xeriscapes can offer year-round greenery and texture, along with seasonal color from flowering plants.

Xeriscape.org offers the following seven fundamental principles of Xeriscape —

⊗ **Plan and design**

The goal: water conservation *and* beauty

⊗ **Create practical grass areas**

Design manageable sizes and shapes, and choose appropriate grasses.

⊗ **Select low water plants**

Group plants of similar water needs together, and experiment to determine how much and how often to water.

⊗ **Add soil amendments**

Introduce compost or manure as needed by the site and the type of plants used.

⊗ **Use mulches**

Woodchips and other mulches reduce evaporation and keep the soil cool.

⊗ **Irrigate efficiently**

Use properly designed systems (including hose-end equipment) and apply the right amount of water at the right time.

⊗ **Maintain the landscape properly**

Mow, weed, prune and fertilize .

SOURCE: *Albuquerque Journal*
www.xeriscape.org



Making a Green Sanctuary Plan

The Unitarian Universalist denomination has created a Green Sanctuary program, offering certification to congregations that take seriously their commitment to the environment. Participants in the program pursue five central goals —

- Building awareness of societal environmental issues
- Generating commitment for personal lifestyle changes
- Motivating churches to community action on environmental issues
- Connecting spiritual practice and environmental consciousness
- Developing awareness of and rectifying environmental injustices

In seeking certification as a Green Sanctuary, UU churches engage in at least 12 activities or projects in four focus areas —

- **Worship and Celebration**
at least two activities
Ideas might include creating a “green” liturgy and making green- or nature-inspired paraments.
- **Religious Education**
at least two activities
Consider using the green liturgical season to focus on our relationship to Creation. And check out the study guides from the National Council of Churches.
- **Environmental Justice**
at least two activities, of which one must be a major, ongoing activity in partnership with another congregation or organization to address an issue of environmental justice either locally or in the world
What are the issues in your area: factories belching pollution over low-income neighborhoods? dumps that leach toxins into the water supply? waterways that are diverted to benefit industry? The opportunities for projects are legion!

- **Sustainable Living**

at least four activities, including at least one energy conservation activity

Clean up trash-clogged streams. Start a recycling center for electronics and their batteries. Design church-branded, reusable shopping bags that congregants can take to the market.

The UU defines *sustainable living* not in terms “of material comfort (though these choices are an important part of the overall lifestyle), but as about choosing to live in a way that nurtures life, builds relationships, and rejects material consumption as the sole determinant of happiness.”

The following steps are adapted from the UU Green Sanctuary program —

1 Establish a Green Sanctuary Committee

The Green Sanctuary Committee is officially sanctioned (by whatever process is the usual practice for the congregation) as a permanent committee with a designated chair or contact person. Members will represent all aspects of the congregational life, including Christian education, worship, communications, buildings and grounds, finance, social justice, and any others that are relevant in the congregation. The committee’s charter will declare the congregation’s intention to become a “green” church. The Green Sanctuary committee will coordinate activities and document their completion. The role of this committee is not to bear the burden of the church’s environmental commitment; instead, the committee will facilitate planning and provide logistical support to the congregation so that activities can be accomplished more effectively.



2 Conduct an Environmental Audit

The first Green Sanctuary action should be an environmental audit, providing a snapshot of where the congregation stands with respect to its environmental behaviors. The audit establishes the baseline or starting point for the program. The audit will include at least —

- Energy usage patterns and current conservation practices
- Compliance with local recycling procedures
- Church policies for use of non-disposable materials and non-toxic cleaning supplies
- Church policies governing purchasing and investing
- Landscaping policies directing use of native species, landscape chemicals, etc.
- Christian education programs relating to the environment for children and adults
- Worship practices integrating the wisdom of the Earth and the recognition of Creation as God's gift to humankind
- Social action projects or activities relating to environmental justice

The audit may consist of a series of separate inquiries by different people who then create a comprehensive analysis of the relevant environmental issues in the congregation's life.

3 Create an Action Plan

Develop an Action Plan to complete the 12 activities the congregation has chosen, including a communications strategy for sharing information about and inviting participation in the activities. Include both timeline targets and the names of lead coordinators for each of the 12 actions. The Action Plan is a road map to help the congregation and Committee think through its strategy and check the logistics of its program elements. If circumstances change, plans are no longer appropriate, or barriers for a particular project are insurmountable, the Plan may be adjusted.

For more information on this program, visit uuministryforearth.org



Finding the Green to Go Green

Often, churches delay Going Green out of fear of the cost involved. But as we've seen, Going Green can actually save a church money – in a short time, with changes that cost very little to implement. And here's more good news: when the time comes to make significant investments in greener technologies and changes, the savings can actually pay for the investment in just a few years.

The Cornerstone Fund offers an EcoLoan of up to \$75,000 for UCC churches and organizations looking to make environmentally friendly upgrades. Churches choose the rate program they desire, and can amortize their loans for up to 30 years for the most economical payment.

Let's take a look at how an EcoLoan can help a church make improvements, with the savings paying the way –

Holy Pilgrim Reformed UCC spends about \$1,500 a month on their energy bills. Based on national averages, the church probably spends about 40% of that money on lighting alone. So Holy Pilgrim Reformed decides to Go Green—

- they replace their incandescent bulbs with CFLs & install LED exit signs
- they install occupancy sensors & programmable thermostats
- they make sure appliances & equipment are turned off completely when people leave the building
- they persuade one of their members to give the church a new EnergyStar refrigerator to replace the used one that was donated 10 years ago
- they fix the window cracks, recaulk window & door seals, add weatherstripping, and ensure air filters are changed regularly

Holy Pilgrim is pleased to report that they have cut their energy costs by a third – saving over \$500 a month. They're ready now to replace their old HVAC system with a new one, and make a few other improvements while they're at it. But the cost is going to run them around \$25,000 – money that's not just lying around. So Holy Pilgrim Reformed contacts the Cornerstone Fund for an EcoLoan.

Loan Amount	\$25,000
Rate (3-year adjustable)	7.375%
Term	5 years
Monthly Payment	\$499.47

In other words, Holy Pilgrim Reformed can use the savings to pay for the loan to make additional improvements that will save them even more!

If they had preferred, Holy Pilgrim could have selected a fixed-rate loan, or could have reduced their payment by choosing a longer term. They would be free to pay more than the minimum payment to pay their loan off more quickly, or even pay off the loan in full whenever they chose, with no penalty.

Want to see how an EcoLoan might work for your church? Call the Cornerstone Fund today!



Start at Home

You don't need to wait for your church to Go Green to begin making a positive impact in your community and on the environment. The ideas that work for your church will work at home, too! Take a look at these additional ways to get started on your own —

1. Change 5 lights

Replace the conventional bulbs in your five most frequently used light fixtures with EnergyStar bulbs and help the environment while saving money on energy bills. If every household in the US took this one simple action, we would prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions from nearly 10 million cars.

2. Use green power

Green power is environmentally friendly electricity that is generated from renewable energy sources such as wind and the sun. You can buy green power or you can modify your house to generate your own green power by installing solar panels. Check out incentives for renewable energy in your state.

3. Improve your water efficiency

Saving water, especially hot water, can lower greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, look for products with EPA's WaterSense label, water your landscaping only when required and during the coolest part of the day, turn off water while shaving or brushing teeth, avoid unnecessary toilet flushes, and repair leaks.

4. Eat local

The food on the average American plate has traveled 1,500-2,000 miles from where it was produced. Frequent local farmers markets, and look for other food grown close to home.

5. Be green in your yard

Use a push mower, which consumes no fossil fuels and emits no greenhouse gases. If you do use a power mower, make sure it is a mulching mower to reduce grass clippings. Composting your food and yard waste reduces the amount of garbage you send to landfills and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Smart landscaping can also save energy and money, and reduce your household's impact on the environment

6. Drive smart

Consult the EPA's Green Vehicle Guide when buying a new or used car, then avoid hard accelerations, reduce time spent idling and unload unnecessary items in your trunk to reduce weight. Keep your car well-maintained and your tires properly inflated. If you have a removable roof rack you're not using it, take it off to improve your fuel economy by as much as 5 percent.

7. Help kids learn more

Explore the Climate Change Kids Site for games, animations and more. Or help high school students investigate the link between everyday actions at their high school and climate change using the EPA's Climate Change Emission Calculator Kit.

8. Spread the Word

Tell five people that energy efficiency is good for their homes, good for their pocketbooks, and good for the environment we all share!



Consider Scripture

Georgia Interfaith Power & Light has created a list of references for pastors, churches, and Christians in general, noting that a strong scriptural precedent exists for engaging faith communities in care of Creation. The following can be useful in developing sermons, liturgies, studies and other resources.

God has commanded us to care for creation.

Genesis 2:15

The idea of *dominion* is best expressed as *stewardship*.

Genesis 1:26

Our survival depends on the natural world, which in turn depends on God.

Psalms 104:10-14

If we do not follow God's commandments, ecological consequences can result; there is a connection between the moral world and the natural world.

Isaiah 24:4-5

It is unethical for us to use more than our fair share of the world's resources; a heavy "ecological footprint" is contrary to God's covenant with God's people.

Ezekiel 34:17-18

Jesus' call to care for the poor includes care of natural resources for all the people of the earth.

Luke 14:13-14

We have the responsibility to care for the earth as a heritage for generations to come.

Exodus 34:6-7

The beauty of the earth is necessary for people to live fully.

Isaiah 55:12

A substantial change in our common lifestyle will have significant positive effect on the environment.

2 Chronicles 7:13-14

Our understanding of the natural world and its inter-relatedness is far from complete.

Job 38:4-7

Our covenantal responsibilities include the preservation of species.

Genesis 6:18-19

God has a significant relationship with animals and earth, separate from God's relationship with humans.

Genesis 9:12-15

The fate of creation is bound up with the fate of humanity. Both wait in hope for redemption.

Romans 8:19-23

Creation itself has a role in praising God.

Psalms 148:1, 3-6, 9-10, 13

SOURCE: Georgia Interfaith Power & Light
www.gipl.org



Websites & Publications

FAITH-BASED RESOURCES

theregenerationproject.org

The national Interfaith Power & Light site. See their Links section.

gipl.org

Georgia Interfaith Power & Light – another good Links resource, which includes links to other states' sites.

nccecojustice.org

The Eco-Justice Working Group of the National Council of Churches. This site offers a number of informative and useful publications, including *Building a Firm Foundation*, a “green” building toolkit.

uuministryforearth.org

Unitarian Universalist site for the UU Green Sanctuary Certification program, which offers useful resources and great links.

earthministry.org

A network that seeks to inspire and mobilize the Christian community to play a leadership role in building a just and sustainable future.

pipeorgan.org

American Institute of Organbuilders

SAVING ENERGY, REDUCING WASTE

energystar.gov/congregations

An information-rich site with special materials for churches

kilowattours.org

Home of the award-winning film *Kilowatt Ours* — a DVD that is available in all UCC conference resource centers.

epa.gov/wastewise

The US Environmental Protection Agency's site, with lots of information on reducing, recycling, reusing and more.

GREEN BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

greenerbuildings.com

Information on building green from GreenBiz

usgbc.org

US Green Building Council

nwf.org

The National Wildlife Federation's site, with info creating grounds that encourage wildlife and combat global warming. Also links to an interactive guide to native and invasive plants for your area.

UCC Resources & Contacts

RESOURCE	SERVICES	CONTACT INFO
The Cornerstone Fund	Offers bank-type investments to UCC members and organizations, and provides loans to UCC churches and organizations for capital improvements and expansion.	888-UCC-FUND (888-822-3863) cornerstonefund.org info@cornerstonefund.org
Church Building & Loan Fund	Helps new or relocating churches with site selection, building construction or purchase, and low-cost loans.	866-822-8224 ucc.org/finance/partners-in-building
Capital Campaign Services	Provides guided capital campaign services, including feasibility studies, to UCC congregations. (fee based)	866-822-8224, ext 3834 ucc.org/finance/capital-campaign
The Insurance Boards	Offers a full range of property and liability insurance coverage at competitive rates.	800-437-8830 insuranceboard.org
UCC National Environmental & Energy Task Force	A working group that seeks to provide resources, networking and guidance for environmental programming in UCC congregations and conferences	uccecoaction.org



Notes