COOL CONGREGATIONS Challenge

Interfaith Power & Light

Entries Due
December 15

IN THIS GUIDE

1. What is Cool the Congregations Challenge?

This is a promotional flyer to share with others.

2. Entry Guide

Everything you need to know to enter the Cool Congregations Challenge.

3. Green Team Sign-up Flyer

If you need a "green team" at your congregation to complete a project, use this flyer in public spaces to get people signed up for your first meeting.

4. Project Ideas and Stories for Inspiration

Cool Congregations Challenge entries find unique expression from place to place. We've collected a few sample stories of what others have done to inspire you.

5. 25 Steps Under $25

This is a list of 25 things your congregation can do under $25 to lower its carbon footprint and save energy.

6. 25 Steps Over $25

If you're ready to do more, here is a list of 25 things over $25 that will help your congregations make a big difference.

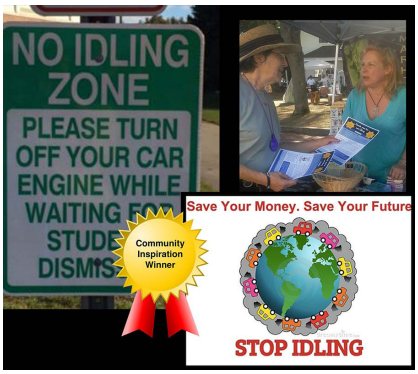
Enter the Challenge

Entries open in the fall, final deadline Dec. 15. Visit: **coolcongregations.org to enter**

The Cool Congregations Challenge is a contest hosted by Interfaith Power & Light that awards prizes to congregations that are becoming energy efficient and sustainable role models in response to climate change. **Projects completed by December 15 qualify.** Apply at www.coolcongregations.org/take-the-challenge/

$1,000 prize will go to the winning contestant in each category:

Cool Congregations Planner
Energy Saver
Renewable Role Model
Sacred Grounds
Community Inspiration



Interfaith Power & Light
A Religious Response to Global Warming

Cool Congregations Challenge is a program of Interfaith Power & Light.
More info at coolcongregations.org.

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ENTRY GUIDE

Entry Deadline & Method

December 15

Find entry form at:
www.coolcongregations.org

Be Prepared with the Following

While the Challenge entry form is fairly short, we recommend that you come to the website entry form prepared with the following: contact information for your congregation and point person, short narratives (250 words or less) describing your project, challenges and creative solutions, estimated cost savings and carbon reductions, and a photo capturing the essence of your entry.

NOTE: If you're entering the project planning category, please be prepared to include your congregation's baseline energy use (before improvements). We provide handy calculators at coolcongregations.org. Include your project plan.

Entry Categories	Examples	
1. Cool Congregations Planner	Audits	Planning documents
2. Energy Saver	Lighting Windows & Doors	Heating & Cooling Systems Insulation & Inserts
3. Renewable Role Model	Solar Geothermal	Wind Solar Water Heating
4. Sacred Grounds Steward	Native Landscaping Bike Racks Recycling & Composting	Water Conservation Wildlife habitats Organic Gardening
5. Community Inspiration	This includes congregations working within their communities to assist in adapting to or coping with climate change. It also includes congregations inspiring members to reduce their footprint at home.	

Entry Guidelines & Eligibility

Projects of any size must be completed by **December 15** to qualify.

Congregations may enter up to three categories, but must fill out a separate entry form for each category they wish to enter. **Visit coolcongregations.org to enter. There is no fee to enter.**

The Challenge is open to congregations of any size or denomination interested in becoming more energy efficient and sustainable.

Projects can take place anywhere as long as they are run through a congregation. That means inside the sanctuary or other buildings, on the grounds, in congregants' homes, or in the community.

Congregations may enter, or individuals and teams may enter on behalf of a congregation.

Awards

Five cash prizes of $1,000 each to the five first place winner is each category.

Certificates suitable for framing awarded to prize winners and runners-up.

Prize money will be awarded to congregations only, and not to individuals.

Judging Process & Criteria

Winners will be chosen by an interfaith panel of faith and lay-leaders, including others with expertise in congregational energy efficiency and sustainability. Each entry will be judged on a combination of factors:

• A well-defined project, measurable objectives for climate benefit	40%
• Creativity and resourcefulness in executing the project	20%
• Congregant and/or community engagement in project or planning	20%
• Inspiration factor. Will this project inspire others?	20%

The percentage awarded in each category will serve as a guideline and the judges will apply their knowledge and experience to evaluate and select the finalists and winners.

Announcement of Winners

Winners will be announced via email, web and media around the end of February. Winners and runners-up will automatically be considered for Certified Cool Congregation status.

Questions?

Entry questions not answered here can be sent to programs@interfaithpowerandlight.org. You may also call IPL at (510) 444-4891. Please allow up to 48 hours for an answer. Thank you!

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This is a great time for our congregation to prepare an entry for the Cool Congregations Challenge!

The Cool Congregations Challenge is a contest hosted by Interfaith Power & Light that awards prizes to congregations (like ours) that are becoming energy efficient and sustainable role models in response to climate change.

Projects of any size completed January 1 to December 15 of the contest year qualify.

Cash prizes of $1,000 will go to the winning contestants in each category. All winners will receive a frameable certificate.

We can choose one category or we can enter them all!

- **Cool Congregations Planner**
- **Energy Saver**
- **Renewable Role Model**
- **Sacred Grounds Steward**
- **Community Inspiration**

Our Cool Congregations Challenge Team planning is under way. Sign up below if you'd like to join the team!

Name	Email	Phone

Cool Congregations Challenge is a program of Interfaith Power & Light. Enter at coolcongregations.org

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PROJECT IDEAS & STORIES FOR INSPIRATION

Cool Congregations Challenge entries find unique expression from place to place. We've collected a few sample stories of what others have done to inspire you. Find more at CoolCongregations.org.

Cool Congregations Planners

North West Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Atlanta, Georgia submitted a comprehensive plan that included: environmental Sunday services; a stewardship project involving the planting of 10 threatened Eastern Hemlock saplings; a rainwater capture project; installation of motion sensors on the lights; and, solar panel array expansion.

The senior youth group of **United Parish of Upton, Massachusetts** embarked on an audit and planning project to save energy and money for their church. Working with National Grid, they raised more than $5,000 for the recommended improvements. They also enacted skits before worship services to promote the call to have congregants follow suit at home through MASS SAVE.

Energy Savers

Mercy Center in Madison, Connecticut has curbed energy use and reduced six tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere through solar-powered hot water heaters that save 650 gallons of heating oil, programmable thermostats, attic and wall insulation, low-flow toilets, and lighting upgrades.

Jonesville United Methodist Church in New York has done extensive work to lower its carbon footprint in response to climate change, such as: upgrading the sanctuary ceiling; replacing heating and cooling systems; and adding motion sensor and time controlled lighting. In all, Jonesville United Methodist Church is saving an estimated 18,000 kWh of electricity, 2,200 therms of natural gas and more than $5,000 in annual cost savings. This represents a saving of 62,000 pounds of CO2.

Cost effective insulation improvements at **Congregation Beth El in Bangor, Maine** have cut the energy purchased to power the congregation in half and at the same time as it made their building more comfortable, more useful to their congregation and more welcoming to their community.

Renewable Role Models

Federated Community Church, Flagstaff, Arizona meets in a century-old building that now gets 96% of its power from the sun. Congregants can monitor the system's performance via a link on the church website.

Euclid Avenue United Methodist Church in Oak Park, Illinois is one of the first churches to go geothermal for heating and cooling. They have reduced their fossil fuel emissions by 100% and have reduced their energy costs by nearly $12,000 per year. They host workshops in conjunction with Illinois Interfaith Power & Light to inspire other churches and synagogues to implement geothermal.

Sacred Grounds Stewards

Good Samaritan Church in Pinellas Park, Florida developed a system for using recycled water for outdoor gardens. They also started using a natural blend of things like soap and Listerine as insecticides for the new native plants in their gardens.

University United Methodist Church in Austin, Texas is an urban church with a number of social justice ministries, including Open Door, a Saturday brunch for about 300 people experiencing homelessness. By adding commercial composting services and training its homeless clients, Open Door now runs trash free. It has composted more than 27,000 gallons of waste. The church has also quadrupled its recycling program as it works to serve vulnerable neighbors in the most healthy efficient, and environmentally sound means possible.

Community Inspirations

An energy study from **First Universalist Church of Rockland, Maine** showed significant heat loss through windows. Leaders researched solutions and determined easy-to-build thermal window inserts to form an insulating barrier to save heat. The church saved 25% in its heating costs in the first winter. The project has grown into The Window Dresser Project is has produced 1,350 window inserts for more than 105 homes.

Rock River United Methodist Church in Rock River, Ohio sponsored a coffee hour to raise awareness of energy-efficiency. They gave away reusable bags; had literature available for energy-saving tips for people's homes; had a free raffle for an energy-efficiency give-away bag; and a demonstration table of a Kill-o-Watt meter and a fridge/freezer temperature card.

Trinity Church, an Episcopal Community in Menlo Park, California hosted an "Energy Party," which focused primarily on educating members and inspiring them to go green at home.

Go Electric! Choose 100% renewable energy and switch all appliances to electric.

25 STEPS UNDER $25

For Congregations

Lighting	CO2 Reduction
☐ 1. Turn off the lights in unused rooms.	380 pounds a year
☐ 2. Buy energy-efficienct LED bulbs for the lights you use most. They last 10x longer and have no mercury.	193 pounds a year per bulb
☐ 3. Replace your halogen lamp with an LED lamp. Saves on air conditioning as LEDs are 90% cooler than halogen.	475 pounds a year
☐ 4. Replace your holiday decorations with LED lights.	122 pounds a season

Appliances & Gadgets	CO2 Reduction
☐ 5. Unplug and recycle old or rarely used refrigerators.	2,500 pounds a year
☐ 6. Allow laundry items to air-dry after washing.	200 pounds a year for every dryer load reduced per week; 780 pounds a year for the entire summer; 1,400 pounds a year if year-round
☐ 7. Cut your phantom electric loads in half by installing surge protectors for computers, copier, fax machine, printer, TV, etc. and turning off your office equipment when you're not using it. Make sure sound systems and projectors are turned off when not in use.	A minimum of 500 pounds a year. (Phantom loads account for 6% of our nation's electrical use.)
☐ 8. Run dishwasher only with a full load and use the energy-saving setting to dry dishes. Or don't use heat when drying, just open the door to air dry.	200 pounds a year
☐ 9. Use electric lawn and garden care equipment. Even if your electricity comes from coal it's still less polluting.	At least 100 pounds a year

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Heating & Cooling	CO2 Reduction
☐ 10. Ask utility for a building energy audit to find out how to improve your building's efficiency. These audits are usually free and make you eligible for rebates on improvements.	Potentially thousands of pounds a year
☐ 11. Don't overheat or overcool rooms. Adjust thermostat lower in winter and higher in summer. Close curtains to block sunlight in summer.	500 pounds a year for each 2 degree adjustment
☐ 12. Clean or replace air filters as recommended. Cleaning a dirty air conditioner filter can save 5% of the energy used.	175 pounds a year
☐ 13. Install programmable thermostats to automatically adjust temperatures.	600 pounds a year
☐ 14. Caulk and weather-strip around doors and windows to plug air leaks.	Up to 1,350 pounds a year

Water	CO2 Reduction
☐ 15. If your congregation contains showers, install shower timers to encourage each shower user to reduce their shower time by 5 minutes.	250 pounds a year per person
☐ 16. Instead of washing laundry items in hot water, wash them in cold water.	500 pounds a year for each two loads a week reduced
☐ 17. Turn down water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees. Think about installing a programmable thermostat on water heater if you only need hot water on worship days.	500 pounds a year for each 10 degree adjustment
☐ 18. Install low-flow showerheads and faucets to use less hot water.	Up to 300 pounds a year
☐ 19. Install low-flow faucet aerators.	20 pounds a year per faucet
☐ 20. If water heater is 10 years old, or more, wrap it in an insulating jacket.	Up to 1,000 pounds a year

Getting Around	CO2 Reduction
☐ 22. Whenever possible, encourage congregants to walk, bike, carpool, or use mass transit. Develop a carpooling system.	20 pounds for every gallon of gas saved
☐ 23. Check the inflation in congregation vehicle tires to increase fuel efficiency.	250 pounds a year
☐ 24. Change congregation vehicle air filters according to the car manual.	200 pounds a year

Reduce, Reuse, Recyle, Rot	CO2 Reduction
☐ 25. Reduce waste by recycling, buying minimally packaged goods, choosing reusable products (dishes, placemats, etc.), using cloth grocery bags, and buying food in bulk, and composting.	100 pounds a year for every gallon per week reduced

Go Electric! Choose 100% renewable energy and switch all appliances to electric.

25 STEPS OVER $25

For Congregations

Lighting	CO2 Reduction
☐ 1. Lighting typically accounts for 30% to 50% of energy use in most buildings. Replace standard incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs, which use 85% less energy and last up to 10 times longer.	193 pounds per bulb per year
☐ 2. Replace incandescent exit signs with LED exit signs.	500 pounds per year per sign
☐ 3. Open curtains to use natural lighting in the sanctuary, install sun tubes and sky lights to bring in natural sunlight. Be sure to equip with remote control blinds.	Saves in direct proportion to electric-generated lighting it replaces
☐ 4. Install occupant sensors where lights tend to get left on.	As much as 50% of lighting related CO_2 emissions

Appliances	CO2 Reduction
☐ 5. Replace older refrigerator, washer and dryer, or dishwasher with ENERGY STAR models.	2,300 pounds a year, 1,300 pounds per year, 120 pounds per year respectively

Heating & Cooling	CO2 Reduction
☐ 6. Upgrade air conditioning system with ENERGY STAR.	Min. of 185 pounds a year
☐ 7. Add or improve the insulation of walls and ceilings. This can save about 25% on heating bills.	Up to 2,000 pounds a year
☐ 8. If you need a new furnace, install an air or ground source heat pump heating and cooling system.	7,000-14,000pounds a year
☐ 9. If you need to replace your windows, install the best energy-saving models.	Up to 10,000 pounds a year

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☐ 10. Plant trees next to your building. Evergreens on the north and west to break cold winds, and deciduous trees on the south and west for cooling shade.	About 2,000 pounds a year
☐ 11. Add air-gap window films to seal leaky windows in winter and/or add low-e films to keep out summer heat.	400 and 380 pounds a year, respectively
☐ 12. Add insulation to your basement.	750 pounds a year
☐ 13. Seal and insulate warm air heating ducts.	800 pounds a year
Water	**CO2 Reduction**
☐ 14. Replace your standard electric hot water heater with an "on demand" hot water system.	3,600 pounds a year
☐ 15. Add on solar water heater to reduce use of gas hot water heater. Gas hot water heaters are responsible for 50% of gas usage in a home.	2300 pounds a year
☐ 16. Add the hot water "desuperheater" to your geothermal system to pre-heat the water in your electric hot water heater.	Reduces water heating carbon by 55%
☐ 17. Replace auto-flush toilets with dual flush toilets. Install motion-activated water faucets on sinks.	Cut toilet-related water use in half
☐ 18. Reduce size of manicured lawns with native grasses and plants that require less water and maintenance, and store more carbon.	Lawns use up to 20 times more water
Getting Around	**CO2 Reduction**
☐ 19. When ready, replace the congregation's car, bus, or van with a more efficient model.	About 10,000 pounds a year for each additional 10 mpg
☐ 20. Buy a hybrid vehicle. The average driver saves $3,750 a year.	16,000 pounds a year for the average driver
☐ 21. Switch to all electric vehicles and install charging stations.	Charge vehicles with zero carbon renewable energy.
Renewable Energy	**CO_2 Reduction**
☐ 22. Install a solar thermal heating system for space heating. It's the most cost effective way to use solar for space heating.	Potentially thousands of pounds for each of these actions.
☐ 23. Install solar electric system. Couple with air or ground source heat pump heating and cooling for a zero carbon building.	
☐ 24. Install a wind turbine for electric generation	
☐ 25. Plant and protect trees in the Global South to offset remaining carbon emissions through IPL's Carbon Covenant program. www.co2covenant.org	

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