



## Take the Cool Congregations challenge!

Across the country, people of faith are making changes in their homes and places of worship to reduce the impacts of global warming through our Cool Congregations program. Our unique stewardship program helps congregations reduce the carbon footprint of their facilities and engages their members in reducing their carbon footprint at home. The program educates, inspires, and saves money too!

## Cool Congregations Program Resources

Interfaith Power & Light's Cool Congregations program has everything you need to help your congregation become a Cool Congregation: start up kits, calculators, a certification process, and a challenge that awards \$1,000 in six categories. You can also offset your remaining emissions by planting trees through Interfaith Power & Light's faith-based programs.



Startup Kits



Congregational Calculator



Household Calculator



Certification



Challenge

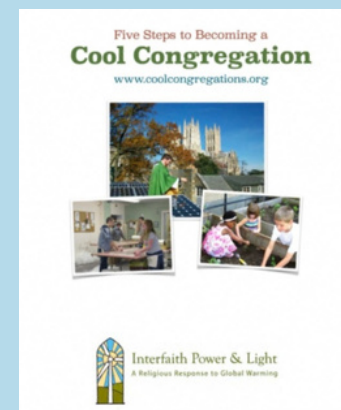


Plant Trees

## Free Startup Kits

IPL's kits provide all the resources and inspiration for congregations to become a Cool Congregation! Reduce the carbon footprint of your congregation's facilities with this unique faith-based guide. It includes:

- How to form a strong green team and inspire your congregation
- Suggestions for projects – what other congregations have done
- Resources for action including the popular 25 Steps Under \$25, and 25 Steps Over \$25 to saving energy in your congregation
- Energy Audits – where to get one and how to do it yourself
- How to apply for Cool Congregations Certification



# Six Entry Categories

## COOL CONGREGATIONS PLANNER

Audits • Planning Reports • Fundraising

## ENERGY SAVER

Lighting • Insulation • Windows & Doors  
• Heating & Cooling Systems

## RENEWABLE ROLE MODEL

Solar • Wind • Geothermal  
• Solar Water Heating

## SACRED GROUNDS STEWARD

Native Landscaping • Organic Gardening  
• Water Conservation • Bike Racks  
• Wildlife Habitats • Recycling & Composting

## COMMUNITY INSPIRATION

This includes congregations that inspire congregants to save energy at home. It also includes congregations helping their communities transition from fossil fuels to clean energy and to become more resilient and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

## ELECTRIC VEHICLE LEADER

EVs (Congregants & Staff)  
• Congregational EV Charging Stations  
• Outreach • Educating & Advocating for EVs

# Find Inspiration: 2019 Sacred Grounds Steward Winner



In Lincoln, the Aldersgate United Methodist Church won IPL's Cool Congregations Challenge Sacred Grounds award for transforming a 1.9 acre lawn surrounding the congregation into a neighborhood park and arboretum. This features a landscaping plan that benefits the environment and serves the community by providing habitat for wildlife, immersion in nature, and nature-based play for children.



Due to Covid, the project eligibility window has been expanded again for 2023. Projects completed in 2020, 2021, and 2022 will be eligible to apply. Deadline Dec 15, 2022, awards announced in February 2023.

Nebraska IPL will be offering a \$100 incentive for each congregation that applies to be part of the contest.

# Thank you for your interest in becoming a Cool Congregation!

## For more information, contact:

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