

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 up to \$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

Projects completed in 2021, 2022, and 2023 are eligible. If you applied before and have not won the Challenge previously, you are eligible to apply again for your projects completed in those three years. Projects can take place inside the worship space or other buildings, on the grounds, in congregants' homes, or in the community.

Nebraska IPL is offering a grant worth up to \$400 for each faith community that participates in the Cool Congregations Challenge and applies for the grant.

Deadline to apply:
December 15, 2023.

Awards announced in February 2024.

For more information, contact:

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COOL
CONGREGATIONS

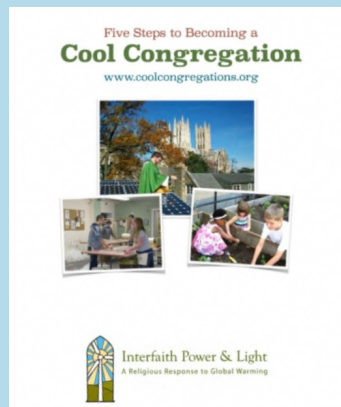
**Take the Cool
Congregations
challenge!**

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!

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 for 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: 2022 Award Recipients



In 2022, St. Paul United Methodist Church of Lincoln, NE won a runner-up award in the "Sacred Grounds" category for initiating a "God's Tree-mendous Creation" campaign to plant and care for native trees in Lincoln (above right). First Plymouth Congregational Church of Lincoln won a runner-up award in the "Community Inspiration" category for educating community members about climate change and sustainable solutions, and for their co-leadership of Faith to Forest in Lincoln (above left).



Also in 2022, Bethany Christian Church of Lincoln became a Certified Cool Congregation at the 10% reduction level, with annual

estimated cost savings of \$3000. Among other things, they switched all their lighting to efficient LEDs, installed motion detectors to automatically turn off lights when not in use, and fitted storm windows over drafty stained glass windows in the sanctuary.