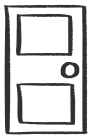
TEN TOP TIPS FOR SAVING ENERGY IN YOUR CHURCH

Places of worship use energy primarily for heat and for lighting. Therefore, finding ways to reduce heat loss and use lighting efficiently will be a good start. Begin with the simplest, least expensive and most obvious options, as these can make a huge difference without major capital funds or upheaval to the building. Some of these tips are also relevant for your home.

1. SHUT IT OUT



Wherever possible close outside doors and doors between rooms during cold weather, and / or doors to cold spaces such as porches. A long, thick curtain across an inner porch door also makes a big difference.

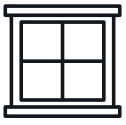
2. CHANGE YOUR LIGHT BULBS TO LEDS

These use 6-10 times less electricity than old incandescent bulbs.Replacing halogen and incandescent light bulbs with LEDs is better for the environment than letting them run until they fail, whereas keeping CLF (the 'curly' long life bulbs) until they fail is better, but putting them in places where they stay on for a long time, as they use most electricity being turned on (like the old-fashioned strip lights).

3. TURN OFF LIGHTS & STANDBY SWITCHES...

... including kettles, which all use a bit of electricity even when not being used. Encourage your congregation and visitors to do the same.

4. DRAUGHTS



Find and eliminate draughts (eg under doors, door and window frames, where skirting meets the floor).

Written by Anna and Tom Sibbald, Warm Connections https://warmconnections.net/ on behalf of Eco-Congregation Scotland http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/ (Scottish Charity number: SC041287)

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eco congregation Scotland

5. GO THICK & THERMAL!

Where appropriate thick, thermal curtains and blinds make a big difference

6. LEARN HOW THE HEATING CONTROLS & THERMOSTATS WORK

This means that you can use the heating as efficiently as possible and therefore use less energy. Time the heating so the building is already warm when the congregation is arriving, and to go off a bit before folk leave, as heat in the system will remain for a short time after it switches off

7. INSUALTE, INSULATE

Insulating water tanks, pipes and behind radiators on outside walls will all prevent heat escaping

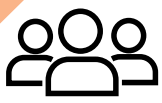
8. PREVENT DAMP

Damp draws heat out of a building, so regular maintenance of gutters etc to ensure these are not blocked is well worth doing

9. ZONE THE HEATING SYSTEM

A zoned heating system means that only the space(s) being used is using energy

10. HEAT THE PEOPLE NOT THE SPACE



Particularly in older buildings, consider how you use the space and how to make people more comfortable. Use smaller spaces when appropriate and look into infrared heating as an option to heat people rather than a big cold space.

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