

PLEASE SUPPORT THE INTERFAITH COALITION ON ENERGY

There are a number of reasons to support our work:

- You may have extra money lying around, and you don't know what to do with it.
- Perhaps you want to support an energy conservation organization that has been working for you since 1980.
 - Maybe you like ICE; maybe one of our articles or a phone conversation saved your congregation money.
 - Your contribution is tax-deductible.
 - We are supported only by congregations and denominations, not by foundations, corporations, utilities, or governments... just you.

Whatever your reasons, please send ICE a check so that we may continue to serve.

ICE, 7217 Oak Avenue, Melrose Park, PA 19027

Thanks

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PLEASE ROUTE TO:
☐ Building and Grounds Chairperson
☐ Congregation President
☐ Treasurer
☐ Clergy

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The Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia
The American Jewish Committee Philadelphia Chapter
The Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Comfort & Light

A Newsletter from the Interfaith Coalition on Energy
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What we do!

The Interfaith Coalition on Energy (ICE) is a non-profit organization that started in 1980. Since then, we have served about 6,100 congregations within a 50-mile radius of Philadelphia's City Hall. Only people of faith – not utilities, governments, corporations or foundations, fund our work. ICE helps them reduce their energy use and cost through this newsletter, workshops, publications and on-site energy surveys (thousands of buildings). See our website www.interfaithenergy.com for more information.

As part of our energy surveys, we rate your use of electricity and fuel use in comparison to averages from similar buildings. We measure the efficiency of your heating system, when possible. We measure the electricity used by refrigerators, freezers, ice machines, vending machines, etc. Based on what we measure and observe, we write a report that describes your facility and makes recommendations to lower your energy cost. The cost of a survey is based on our time and expenses. The cost varies according to the number of buildings and their complexity. We don't charge congregations for gathering data and submitting a fixed-price proposal.

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Workshop to Discuss Your Energy Concerns

On October 10, 2011 PECO estimated that their price for residential electricity in January 2012 would be reduced by 11%. Changes to their commercial rates will be announced in November. This, plus changes to PECO's rebate program, the cold weather, and the price for fuel oil, may encourage you to attend our next energy workshop. We have learned much from the hundreds of congregations we have surveyed over the years. The Interfaith Coalition on Energy will present a balanced, unbiased and free workshop on **Tuesday, December 6, 2011** at Keneseth Israel, 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park PA from 1pm to 4pm. There is plenty of free parking in their huge parking lot. Plus, the #55 bus between the Olney Transportation Center and the Willow Grove Mall runs right past the site.

This workshop is free, but you must pre-register, call ICE at 215-635-1122, or email andrewrudin@earthlink.net, or fax to 215-635-1903, or write ICE, 7217 Oak Avenue, Melrose Park, PA 19027. Our website is www.interfaithenergy.com

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Double Whammy for Fluorescent Tubes

Fluorescent lamps are partially described by the diameter of their glass tube, measured in eighths of an inch. For example, a T12 is 12/8ths of an inch, or one and one half inches (1.5") in diameter. **The first whammy** is that the manufacture of the still widely used T12 fluorescent lighting systems will be illegal by July 14, 2012.

There are multiple alternatives. One is to retrofit each existing light fixture with a electronic ballasts and T8 lamps (which are 1.0" in diameter). A second approach is to replace each existing light fixture with a new fixture containing those more energy efficient ballasts and tubes. A third approach is to redesign the lighting system in each space to perform the required lighting tasks more efficiently and effectively. This latter alternative provides the opportunity for

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more advantageous and beneficial lighting solutions, which if done well, can reduce operating expenses even more than retrofits.

The quality of light from the 1” T8 tubes can be much better than that from T12 tubes because the phosphors inside the tube are of much higher quality. **The second whammy** is that those phosphors are in short supply. The price of T8s has been increasing dramatically and nobody knows when this will stop. Also, the manufacture and importation of the 100-Watt incandescent lamp will be illegal in January 2012, followed by the phase-out of the 75-Watt incandescent lamp in January 2013, and the 60-Watt and the 40-Watt lamps in January 2014.

Overall, your congregation should expect an economic benefit of a reduction of between twenty-five and forty percent in that portion of the electricity cost that is attributable to lighting.

State Energy Code compliance review by your Township's Building Regulations Department is now mandatory for both new and existing facilities, as part of Pennsylvania's recently adopted, statewide Uniform Construction Code (UCC), which became law in PA during 2004. Be aware that as part of selecting an electrical contractor, there are additional considerations that must be addressed including: obtaining an electrical permit, an electrical inspection (by an independent third-party inspection agency), proper disposal of the old lighting equipment (both lamp and ballast recycling), and qualifying for and obtaining any available grants and/or utility rebates.

Submitted by Carl M. Watson, PE, MBA and certified lighting expert. ICE

Thermostat Wars

In 2009, the International Facility Management Association conducted a study about temperature complaints. 94% of the complaints were that the temperature was too cold, and 91% were that it was too hot.

Sometimes it gets personal. Last June, the Chicago Tribune reported a 62-year-old Plainfield, IL woman had a feud with her sister over the thermostat setting in their home. It escalated into a physical fight. They went to court. The judge could not determine which of the sisters started the brawl over whether the ambient air temperature should be 67 or 68 degrees (just one degree!).

One sister testified that it seemed "a little chilly" when she returned home from work two days after Christmas, so she moved the thermostat up to 68°. The other sister said she was in her bedroom upstairs when she heard the furnace come on and went downstairs to nudge it back to 67°. The argument went back and forth and then one sister shoved the other away from the thermostat before throwing punches that left her with a black eye.

The attorney of one sister said they still live together and have apparently reached a thermostat truce. But one sister paid off the mortgage of the other's home so they could live together. A suit over that money is making its way through civil court. ICE

A Sign of Tough Times

National Public Radio had an interesting segment on January 31, 2011. A market analysis firm called Commercial Real Estate Solutions reported an unfortunate trend in church foreclosures over a five-year period:

2006 – 2; 2007 – 9; 2008 – 24; 2009 – 61; 2010 – 96

We hope this recession ends soon. ICE

Fluorescent Tubes Lit with Light Emitting Diodes – Buyer Beware!

When vendors want to sell congregations on a particular product, they sometimes pick on Catholic parishes with the hope that if they can sell one parish, there may be a couple hundred others in the Philadelphia Archdiocese that will follow suit. This happened with tubular lamps that look like they are fluorescent yet contain lots of white light emitting diodes. We got a call from two parishes about this within a week or two and contacted some lighting specialists. They told us that the tubes produce a lot of glare. The LEDs don't have as good light quality as the newer, T8 tubes with electronic ballasts. Plus the price of the tubes was very high.

In the spring 2011 issue of the newsletter from the Lighting Design Lab in Seattle (<http://www.lightingdesignlab.com/LDL%20Newsletter%20Spring%202011.pdf>), Eric Strandberg reported that replacing fluorescent tubes with LED tubes meant line voltage electricity in the sockets at each end of the tube. While Underwriter Labs may have certified the fluorescent fixture, the LED retrofitted fixture was not. So, check with your insurance company if you are considering these LED tubes. He also said the light output of the fixture could be cut in half with the replacement LED tubes. He also disputed their claimed longevity.

Another article in that same issue recommended that any LED product be researched to see if it had an Energy Star rating. Before buying many LED lamps, try one for a side-by-side comparison. Make sure that the light from LED lamps is not focused only on certain areas of the room, leaving other areas darker. ICE

From ICE enthusiasts:

* Thank you kindly for all your hard work for the benefit of our church.

Regina Brady, St. Aloysius Catholic Church, Pottstown ICE

* Thank you for getting us on the right track to recovery for our heating system problem and for showing generosity and a pleasant caring attitude.

Dee Peters Holy Trinity Baptist Church, Philadelphia ICE

* As a member of Mishkan Shalom, I attended a couple of your workshops over the years. Thanks for your help. Your ideas have saved Mishkan a significant sum.

Dan Wolk ICE

* I really enjoyed your presentation! I learned so much and you are so much fun to learn from.

Rachel Jacoby Rosenfield, Director of the Jewish Greening Fellowship ICE