

Guidelines for Talking with Pastors and Boards about Energy Stewardship and Climate Change

- **Mission Possible:** Explain that Creation care and taking action to prevent the worst impact of climate change are fundamental to the existing mission of the Church. This is not a new task to be taken on, but an overarching theme in the life of the Church. Our 2009 Earth Day Sunday Resource is an excellent tool to help you share this message. Download it online at <http://nccecojustice.org/resources/#earthdaysundayresources>.
- **Make the Connections:** Make the connection between increasing energy efficiency and financial stewardship. Not only will your congregation be reducing its contributions to global climate change, but money saved can be used to fund other mission projects.
- **Do Your Research:** Let them know that outside funding is available. Research Federal, state, local and denominational incentives for becoming more energy efficient. Check out the funding opportunities section of our Green Churches Webpage at <http://nccecojustice.org/greenchurch/grbfunding.php>. Know about and share denominational statements (both national and regional) about climate change and environmental stewardship.
- **Provide Resources:** Join the *Carbon Reduction Campaign* an online resource for greening your congregation at <http://nccecojustice.org/carbonreduction/>. Find out what you can do to reduce your congregation's carbon footprint and get step by step instructions to help you get started! Download *Bottom Line Ministries That Matter: Congregational Stewardship with Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy Technologies* and *Building a Firm Foundation: A Creation-Friendly Building Guide for Churches* online at <http://nccecojustice.org/resources/>.
- **Be Creative:** Come up with creative ideas for in-house fundraising. One church offered to throw a party for everyone who donated \$40 dollars the cost of replacing one fluorescent light with a more efficient LED model.
- **Community is Key/Be the Body:** Find allies in other groups within your congregation. Explain your ideas to others within your congregation who would have the skills and interest to lend a hand. Include someone from all of the church committees. That way, when you



present your ideas to your pastor or church board, you will already have support from the congregation. Whatever your church decides to do, it's important to involve the entire congregation.

- **Start Simply:** Suggest starting out by getting an Energy Audit. These are usually free and the results will help you to locate the waste and know what needs to be changed. For a list of simple ways to make your church more energy efficient check out <http://nccecojustice.org/greenchurch/greenergy.php>.

