



# FAITH COMMUNITIES GO GREEN

## Energy Efficiency Initiative (EEI) 7 STEPS.

**STEP 1. Complete the [EEI Survey](#).** Fill in as many of the items as you are able.

**STEP 2. Your contact:** Organize a Green Team and/or select a designated person to communicate with Faith Communities Go Green (FCGG).

[How to form and sustain a Green Team:](#)

**STEP 3. Collect and send data.** Send 13 Consecutive Months of Utility Bills and the square footage of each building to [facilities@fcgg.org](mailto:facilities@fcgg.org). FCGG will input the data into software to benchmark and report your energy use. It's important to track your utility bills to calculate utility bill savings and reduced emissions.

[How to get your Utility bills](#)

[How to get building square footage](#)

**STEP 4. Get an energy audit:** Work with a professional Energy Auditor specialist to develop a plan to make your facility energy efficient and achieve the best return on your investment. The specialist may also help you compare financial plans such as loans, grants, or other financial tools. Learn if your building is ready for solar or geothermal. Total projected cost of improving the energy efficiency of the building may be determined by factors such as the age, weatherization or air tightness, and square footage of the building, as well as the age and complexity of the building equipment.

[List of Energy Auditors](#) If your faith community cannot afford an energy audit by a professional energy specialist contact our FCGG Facilities leader, Ken, at [facilities@fcgg.org](mailto:facilities@fcgg.org)/ Also, read the Toolkit on the Facilities Working Group page, *How to Apply for Ohio Energy Efficiency Grants* .

**STEP 5. Determine costs of improvements:** Develop an energy improvement plan based on data from the assessment, seek bid estimates for high priority projects, figure the timeline for the best return on investment.

[List of Contractors](#) / Contractor company listings coming soon, please check back.)

**STEP 6. Funding:** Set up an Environmental Fund to collect money from fundraising efforts, grants, and savings realized from energy efficiency improvements. Plan to put 50% of the realized energy savings into the Fund for future energy improvement projects. Plan to use the remaining savings for programs that fit your faith's mission,

benefit community members, and serve society.

[Grant resources and how to apply for a grant](#) and also the Toolkit on this Facilities Working Group page, *How to Apply for Ohio Energy Efficiency Grants* .

**STEP 7. Implement the planned energy efficiency improvements and track data** from utility bills to determine realized cost savings and emissions reductions. Send new utility bills to Facilities leader, Ken, at [facilities@fcgg.org](mailto:facilities@fcgg.org) /. FCGG will input the data into software used for your benchmarking to determine your savings, greenhouse gas reduction, Energy Star rating, and more. Report to FCGG new Faith mission programs achieved from savings. Use this information in your grant reports.

**Faith Communities Go Green (FCGG) uses the data for grant applications to expand the Energy Efficiency Initiative (EEl) into more faith communities and, when possible, to help cover some costs of audits and energy upgrades. FCGG may share EEl information for publicity.**

**If you have questions, contact FCGG Facilities leader, Ken, at [facilities@fcgg.org](mailto:facilities@fcgg.org)**