



ENERGY STAR® Congregations

U.S. EPA | ENERGY OUTREACH AT EPA NEW ENGLAND



THE ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

efforts at EPA New England include working with businesses, federal, state, and local organizations and New England citizens to reduce energy use by providing tools, guidance and technical assistance for energy efficiency, cleaner fuels and renewable sources of energy. The goal of these efforts is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and impacts of climate change.

INTRO:

New England has some of the highest energy costs in the nation and many Houses of Worship (HOW) are trying to find ways to reduce their energy use and costs for their congregations. In 2009, ENERGY STAR added Houses of Worship as a building type that can be benchmarked using the portfolio manager tool. Benchmarking your facility will give you information on the energy efficiency of your building as it compares to other HOW across the United States. The ENERGY STAR tools and resources will help you better manage your utility bills and help your facility become more energy efficient.

ENERGY & WORSHIP

New England's estimated 11,000 houses of worship spend more than \$116 million on energy each year. The ENERGY STAR Congregations program helps HOW improve their facility's energy performance while reducing energy costs. It is expected that HOW could reduce their energy use from 10%-30% by implementing energy efficient measures. If the New England HOW reduced their energy use by just by 10%, these are the estimated impacts:

- Approximately \$11.6 million in energy costs would be saved and could be used for the congregation's mission and other priorities.
- In addition to natural gas and fuel oil savings, over 23 million kilowatt-hours of electricity would be reduced.
- Over 48,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions would be eliminated.

BENCHMARKING ENERGY USE

The EPA and DOE jointly administer the ENERGY STAR program that was started in 1992 as a market-based-partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency. Today, the ENERGY STAR label can be found on more than 60 different kinds of products as well as new homes and commercial and industrial buildings that meet strict energy-efficiency specifications set by the EPA. For HOW, the ENERGY STAR portfolio manager bench-

marking tool is designed to assist the facility in determining its energy efficiency. When the energy use data is entered into the portfolio manager tool for a HOW, it will give a rating for the building from 1-100. Those facilities that score 75 or better are in the top 25% of all HOW for energy efficiency nationally and therefore are eligible for an ENERGY STAR label. This rating helps individual building operators accurately assess the energy performance of their buildings; make more informed budgetary, investment and management decisions; and enables them to calculate and communicate their environmental stewardship achievements to clergy and congregants, as well as to the larger community. An ENERGY STAR labeled worship facility typically uses 30% less energy than an average house of worship. To sign up for a free Portfolio Manager Account and get started, please visit www.energystar.gov/benchmark.

ENERGY STAR LABELS

EPA New England is working with HOW and faith-based organizations to provide technical assistance on how to benchmark these buildings. As of 2011, there are over 30 HOW that have benchmarked their facilities and two houses of worship that have earned the ENERGY STAR label in New England.

First Parish, Needham, MA
Winchester Unitarian Society, Winchester, MA

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