

GREEN HOUSES *of* WORSHIP

Green Houses of Worship is a three-tiered, environmental stewardship program sponsored by the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network that grants certificates of achievement for implementing eco-friendly measures in your building and within your religious communities. Green Houses of Worship has three levels, each with a checklist of sixteen items.

To complete a level, your house of worship must check off at least twelve items from the checklist for that level (see inside of brochure for checklist). Upon completion of each level, your community will mail the completed checklist to IREJN. After receipt of the completed paperwork, a Green Houses of Worship representative will visit your house of worship and present your faith community with a certificate of achievement for you to display. Green Houses of Worship is done on the honor system and the program is retroactive – you can receive a certificate for work completed in the past, such as energy efficiency measures or a tree planting. It is our hope that the Green Houses of Worship program will make each community feel proud about the work that they have done, while inspiring them to take further action.

To raise awareness about the Green Houses of Worship program, we are asking for interested faith communities to host an informational session and invite 5-10 faith houses of worship from their area. However, this is not required to participate in the Green Houses of Worship program. If you have any questions or would like to host an informational session, please contact Letty Naigles at lnaigles@yahoo.com.

Please also note that the application requires the signatures of your congregation's clergy and senior lay leader.

Green Houses of Worship Steering Committee

Pamela Arifian
Terri Eickel
Lynn Fulkerson
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Jameelah Muhammad
Letitia Naigles
Bernard Pelletier
George Stone

OUR MISSION

The Interreligious Eco-Justice Network is a faith-based environmental organization that seeks to inspire and empower religious communities in Connecticut to be better stewards of creation.

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IREJN

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Complete any 12 of the steps in a column to receive recognition at that level (1, 2 or 3 green globes)

LEVEL 1

- Devote at least 1 service annually to environmental stewardship.
- Develop a course of study based on your sacred texts that highlights the importance of stewardship of the earth
- Form a “green team” in your faith community
- Show environmental films (e.g. - Chasing Ice)
- Add ‘Green’ elements to youth group curriculums (see www.ctenergyeducation.com or www.irejn.org)
- Include ‘Green’ column in your newsletters, bulletins (IREJN will help member congregations)
- Invite environmentally focused speakers (e.g. IREJN)
- Shift communications from paper to electronic media
- Keep radiators/heating ducts/refrig coils clean
- Make environmental/conservation resources available to members
- Recycle paper/bottles/cans
- Put office machines on power strips and unplug rarely used appliances
- Reduce hot water temp to 120 degrees
- Use low impact paper products
- Flexible item : _____
- Flexible item : _____

For a Flexible item, you can describe an activity not listed or substitute an item from a list to the right of the list you are completing.

LEVEL 2

- Install and use programmable thermostats
- Replace incandescent bulbs with LED’s
- Insulate/weather-strip pipes/walls/ceilings/doors/ water heaters
- Shift to reusable dishes/utensils
- Install low energy LED exit and emergency lighting/ signs
- Ban styrofoam from use
- Complete an energy audit for your house of worship through the Small Business Energy Advantage program at Energize CT.
- Institute “Walk/bike/carpool to services” days
- Shift to organic lawn/landscape care
- Shift to environmentally sensitive cleaning products
- Develop a car pool system for activities conducted by your faith community
- Run a weatherization campaign for individual homes through the Home Energy Solutions program at Energize CT
- Purchase ‘Clean’ electric energy for your buildings (<https://www.energizect.com>)
- Review your investments for environmental impact
- Flexible item : _____
- Flexible item : _____

Flexible items can also include an IREJN environmental activity/program. See the website for additional suggestions.

LEVEL 3

- Establish an organic community garden. <https://irejn.org/what-we-do/irejn-garden-project/>
- Implement recommended Energy Saving Measures to your house of worship based on your energy audit.
- Buy ‘Energy Star’ appliances
- Install ‘low flow’ water fixtures or tankless water heaters
- Install solar hot water heaters
- Replace inefficient windows/doors
- Implement low water lawns/landscaping
- Advocate for local/state/national energy efficiency policies
- Assist/encourage members to adopt green steps in their homes and businesses <https://www.energizect.com/your-home>, <https://www.energizect.com/your-business>
- Join with other “sustainability” groups to facilitate broader community action/advocacy
- Plant trees to capture carbon and reduce carbon dioxide in the air
- Host a community program to examine all aspects of transportation
- Begin the process of divesting from fossil fuels <https://irejn.org/what-we-do/speakers-bureau/>
- Install photo-voltaic panels for electricity / hot water
- Flexible item : _____
- Flexible item : _____

For more information and resources, go to our website: irejn.org/green-houses-of-worship