



# SAVE ENERGY, SAVE THE PLANET

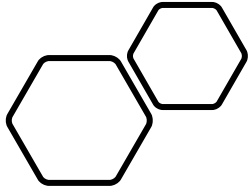


Interreligious Eco-Justice Network  
Energy Efficiency Programs in 2023



## Climate Change

- Five 1,000 year rainfall events in Missouri, Kentucky, Illinois, California, & Texas
- Flooding displaced 30% of Pakistan residents
- Crushing heat waves in Europe
- Drought caused Nevada's Lake Mead to drop to 26% of its capacity

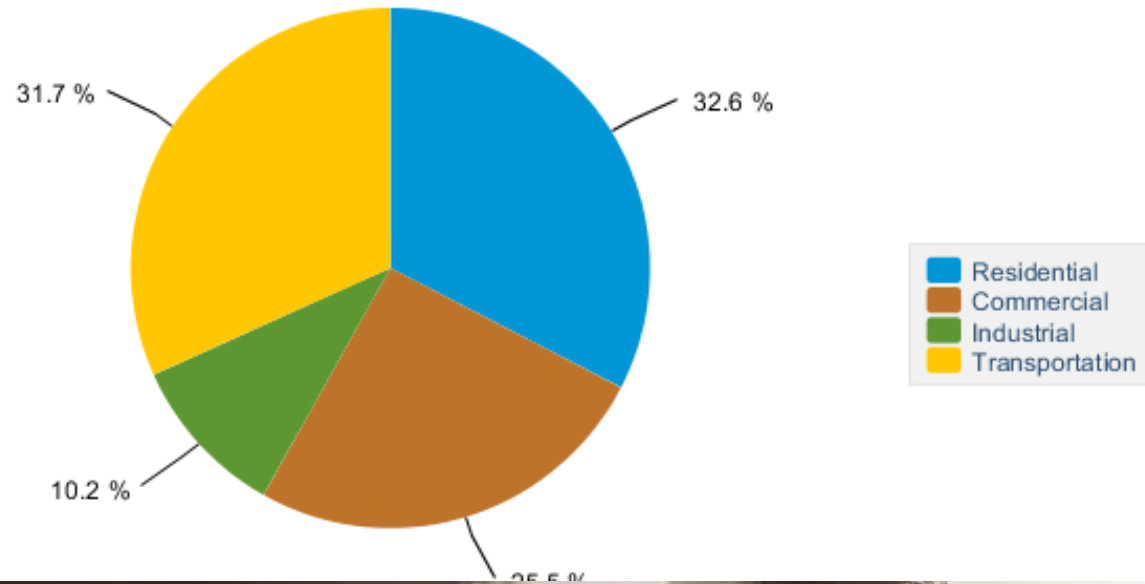


# Energy Justice

- Low-income houses have an energy burden that is three times higher than higher-income households
- Low-income households are less likely to be energy efficient
- 60% of our carbon emissions could be reduced with energy efficiency measures. – Dr. Katherine Hayhoe



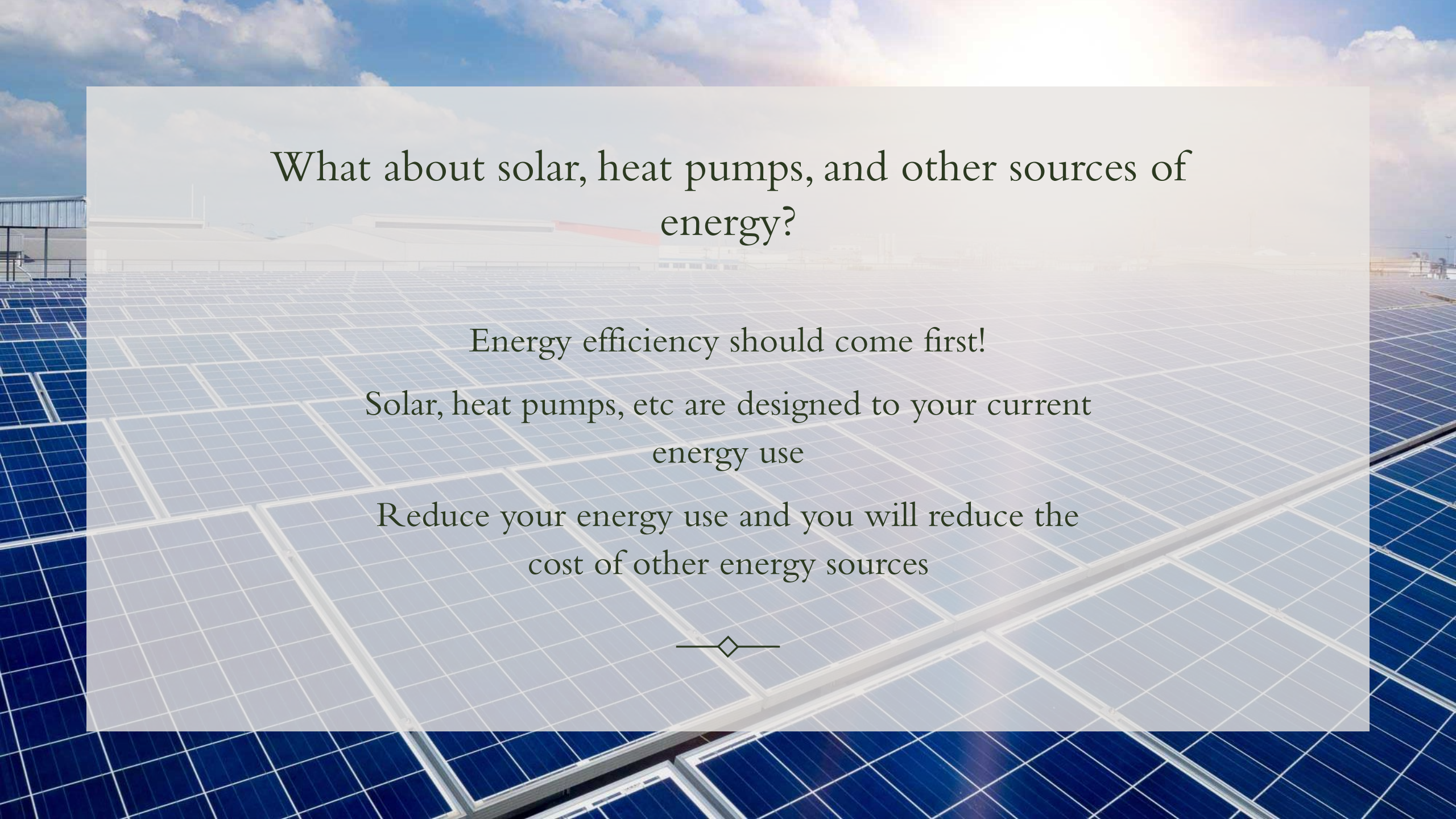
## Connecticut Energy Consumption by End-Use Sector, 2019



## Energy Usage – Quick Facts

- In 2020, CT used 12,963 kWh in electricity – higher than 2019
- Coincided with an increase in days over 90 degrees
- People spend 30% more on electricity in the summer than winter
- The average electricity bill in CT is 19% higher than other states
- A typical home uses 30% more energy than an energy efficient one





What about solar, heat pumps, and other sources of energy?

Energy efficiency should come first!

Solar, heat pumps, etc are designed to your current energy use

Reduce your energy use and you will reduce the cost of other energy sources



# IREJN

## Energy Efficiency Program



- Have your house of worship participate in the Small Business Energy Advantage Program
- Hold a home weatherization campaign in your house of worship with the goal of getting 25% of your members to sign up
  - IREJN can supply all participating houses of worship with a toolkit of brochures, flyers, bulletin announcements, and social media posts
- Spread the word by hosting an informational session with 3-5 religious communities in your area (or denomination)
  - Can be in-person or virtual
- IREJN can supply materials and speakers to help your campaign succeed



# IREJN Small Grant Assistance Program



- In 2023, IREJN will be able to award ten \$1,000 small grants to assist houses of worship with energy efficiency measures.
  - Priority given to houses of worship in distressed municipality or environmental justice zones
  - Participants must complete Small Business Energy Audit & and undertake energy efficiency measures
  - Participants must host a residential weatherization campaign in their house of worship
  - Participants must help spread the word by hosting an informational session to 3-5 area houses of worship (in-person or virtual)





# Inflation Reduction Act

- The Inflation Reduction Act has funding specifically for houses of worship for energy efficiency and renewable
- New pilot program for grants of up to \$200,000 for energy efficiency
- Application isn't open yet, but now is the time to do the SBEA audit and decide what energy efficiency measures to undertake
- IREJN is hosting a webinar with Daniel Bressette, Executive Director of the Environmental and Energy Studies Institute on Tuesday, February 7 from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm





# Small Business Energy Assistance



- Free energy audit for small businesses – in this case, your house of worship
- Vendor will come to your house of worship and conduct a thorough audit
- Provide you with a menu of energy efficiency measures
- The cost can be paid in one lump sum or it can be spread out over time in your electric bill





## Home Energy Solutions



- For homeowners and renters
- Program of Energize CT
- Paid for by \$1-2 fee on your Eversource bill
- Two versions – one with a copay and one for income eligible

## How does Home Energy Solutions work?

- Homeowners sign the application, renters need their landlord to sign
- Energy weatherization company will come to your home or apartment and provide several weatherization services
- \$50 co-pay
- On average, services are valued at close to \$1,000



# What happens during the HES visit?



- Conduct a blower door test and perform an energy audit
- Weatherstripping around window and doors
- Installation of door sweeps
- Swap out incandescent lightbulbs with LED lightbulbs
- Once it is completed, you qualify for great rebates on insulation, HVAC, appliances



## Rebates and Incentives

- Up to \$1.70 per square foot on approved insulation projects recommended during your visit
- Up to \$200 for qualifying central air conditioning systems
- Up to \$50 for replacement of certain inefficient appliances with qualifying energy-efficient models
- Up to \$650 for replacement of inefficient gas furnaces with qualifying gas furnaces
- Up to \$750 for replacement of inefficient gas boilers with qualifying gas boilers
- \$100 for replacement of each single pane window with a qualifying ENERGY STAR double pane window
- Significant rebates for Air and Ground Source Heat Pumps



## Rebates and Incentives

- **Air Source Heat Pumps:**
  - up to \$15,000 per home for qualifying Air Source Heat Pumps for existing electric, oil, and propane homes
- **Ground Source Heat Pumps:**
  - up to \$7,500 per home for qualifying Ground Source Heat Pumps for existing electric or natural gas heated homes
  - up to \$15,000 per home for qualifying Ground Source Heat Pumps for existing oil or propane heated homes



# HOME ENERGY SOLUTIONS INCOME ELIGIBLE PROGRAM





# Income Eligible Requirements 2022-2023

Family Size	Maximum Annual Income
1	Under \$39,761
2	Under \$51,996
3	Under \$64,230
4	Under \$76,465
5	Under \$88,699
6	Under \$100,933
7	Under \$103,227
8	Under \$105,521







# Renters and Landlords

- HES and HES-IE for 2-4 family residences
- Programs are for the utility bill payer whether a homeowner or a renter
- 31% of renters in Connecticut are considered extremely low income (ELI)
- If 50% of renters in 2 or 4 family or 2/3 of renters in 3-family qualify for HES-IE, all tenants can get HES-IE benefits.
- Every renter needs to fill out application with name, address, and utility bill
- No copay!
- Includes assessment, air-sealing, and aerator
- IE program also includes LED lightbulbs – if no one is IE, landlord pays for lightbulbs





## Large Apartment Buildings

- 5 or more apartments
- The owner has to fill out an application and the utility has to approve it.
- Residents don't have to do anything – process is between the vendor, owner, and the utility
- Once application is approved, the first visit is within 1-2 weeks
- Work is completed within 1-2 months



## Increased opportunities for weatherization with HES-IE

- Installation of weathers stripping and door sweeps
- Interior caulking around all window and doors
- Installation of low flow shower-heads and aerators
- Insulation of attics, sidewall and/or basement ceilings (after approval by Utilities with state incentives)
- Repair (or replacement) of windows (after approval by Utilities with state incentives)
- Cleaning, tuning, testing and repairing of heating systems
- Replacement of incandescent lighting with LEDs
- Installation of Carbon Monoxide Detectors
- Blower Door Guided Air- sealing
- Access to other rebates, financing, and incentives





How to sign up for HES or  
HES - IE

Sign up at

[www.energizect.org](http://www.energizect.org)

OR

1 - 877- WISE USE





## Upcoming Events

**Religious Communities and the Inflation Reduction Act  
(webinar)**

Tuesday, Feb 7 – 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**Make Your Voice Heard – Green Forum on State Legislation  
(in-person)**

Monday, Feb 13 – 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

**Growing a Community Garden (webinar)**

Tuesday, February 28 – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

**Faith Climate Action Week with IPL**

Friday, April 14 – Sunday, April 23

[www.irejn.org](http://www.irejn.org)





## Resources

<https://nhsofnewhaven.org/enter-i-heart-my-home-ct/>

[www.energizect.org](http://www.energizect.org)

[www.heatsmartct.org](http://www.heatsmartct.org)

<https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/heat-pump-systems>

