



Energy Issues and Climate Change

ENERGY AUDITS

"The goods of the earth are gifts from God. We have a responsibility to care for these goods as stewards and trustees, not as mere consumers and users. We should be guided both by concern for the health and well-being of others, with a priority for the needs of the poor and vulnerable, and by respect for the intrinsic worth and beauty of God's environment: the land, water, air, natural resources, and all His creatures."

(New York State Catholic Conference Legislative Agenda, 2010)

An energy audit makes good fiscal sense and is a practical place to begin an environmental stewardship program.

An analysis of energy consumption will reveal inefficiencies that may be addressed inexpensively. Today, it is not difficult to find energy-efficient and water-saving appliances for the interior of a home or church. Knowledgeable parishioners can help church staff target ways to conserve energy. Reverence for God's creation inspires prudent consumption of energy and responsible recycling.

HOW TO CONDUCT AN ENERGY AUDIT

The New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) provides opportunities for churches and schools to become more energy efficient through their energy audit program. Industrial and commercial facilities, State and local governments, not-for-profit and private institutions, colleges and universities, and K-12 schools are eligible. Facilities must have less than \$75,000 in annual electric bills to participate in the program.

This program provides energy audits for small businesses and other non-residential facilities to help them make informed energy decisions and implement energy-efficiency strategies. Audits help identify improvements that yield energy savings.

Your church or school can apply by completing an application form and sending it to the Region 1 service provider. Application forms and information about service providers is available at <http://www.nyserda.org/programs/energyaudit.asp>.

Annual Electric Bills Energy Audit Fee

Cost: If your electric bill is less than \$25,000 annually, the audit costs \$100

For those whose bill totals \$25,000 - \$75,000 the fee is \$400

The Audit Fee is refundable if audit-recommended measures are implemented.

For more information call: 1-866-NYSERDA (697-3732) TOLL FREE or go to www.nyserda.org

The Federal Energy Star Program - also provides grants & incentives for congregations as well as recommendations and guidelines. Go to www.energystar.gov/congregations