

10 ways to decarbonize your House of Worship: HOW will you light the way?



Faithful Steps Toward a Healthier Earth and a Just Future: As people of faith, we are called to care for Creation and our neighbors. Climate change threatens both. One powerful way to respond is by reducing our carbon footprint — not just as individuals, but together as a community. Here are ten practical and spiritually grounded ways your house of worship can begin to decarbonize:

- 1 Start an Earth Care Team:** Form a small group committed to sustainability and climate justice. Begin with learning, reflection, and planning.
- 2 Do an Energy Audit:** Set up an appointment with us for our Cool Congregations committee do a free audit.
- 3 Weatherize Buildings:** Seal windows and doors, insulate attics and basements. These small upgrades can make a big difference.
- 4 Electrify Everything:** Replace any appliances or equipment that burn fossil fuels with their electric counterparts.
- 5 Upgrade Heating & Cooling Systems:** Replace old systems with heat pumps or other energy-efficient solutions.

- 6 **Install Solar Panels:** Look into community solar, rooftop panels, or power purchase agreements. Solar saves money and reduces emissions.
 - 7 **Tend to Your Grounds:** Plant native, drought-tolerant species. Remove turf. Reduce irrigation. Consider adding pollinator gardens.
 - 8 **Host a Carbon Fast:** Invite your congregation to participate in a month-long journey of reducing personal and collective carbon use.
 - 9 **Educate & Preach:** Include Creation care in sermons, classes, and spiritual practices. Help people connect faith and climate action.
- 10 **Contact Us:** And, finally, contact us! NM-IPL is here to help with your decarbonization efforts. We can get you started with an energy audit, connect you with financial resources, and advise you on your decarbonization journey. **Email us at info@NM-IPL.org**

Let your faith community be a light in the dark — a sign of hope and action in a warming world. You don't have to do it all at once. Start small, start together.

#Faiths4Climate #DecarbonizeTogether #SacredEarth
#NewMexicoFaithForClimate



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