

THE ECO-SURVEY

One of the simplest actionable steps you can take part in at your local church is doing an Eco-Survey, led by the young people in your congregation. An Eco-Survey of your church's physical building is a straightforward process that focuses on how energy efficient and earth-friendly your building and grounds are.

Item	Issue	Location	Effects	Possible Solutions
LIGHTING				
Are we using LED Bulbs?				
Are we using auto timers?				
Are we leaving lights on that could be turned off?				
Are we using outside lights, and if so, are there motion sensors to activate them?				
Do we have EXIT Signs and emergency lights?				
PLUG LOADS				
Are there computers, monitors, or devices left plugged in overnight?				

Item	Issue	Location	Effects	Possible Solutions
Are we making good use of power strips that can be turned on and off for desk spaces and major appliances?				
Are there kitchen appliance currently plugged in that can be unplugged?				
Are the plugged-in kitchen appliances in clean and efficient working order?				
COOLING & HEATING				
Is there a programmable thermostat in every area? Is the thermostat set to run only when people are in the building?				
Are filters in use for cooling or heating units? Are they regularly changed and cleaned?				
Are there air leaks in ductwork or around windows or doors that could be caulked or sealed with weather foam?				
Are shades or blinds used to block unwanted heat pickup in very sunny areas?				

Item	Issue	Location	Effects	Possible Solutions
Are vents clear of clutter and furniture?				
Is the building insulated properly? Are there any gaps?				
When does the building get cleaned? Is there a way to get daytime cleaning done to limit additional heating/cooling hours?				
Are there any leaky faucets or constantly running toilets that need repair?				
BEHAVIORAL & OUTSIDE				
What kinds of products do we use to clean our church building? Are they non-toxic and biodegradable?				
What kinds of dining plates and utensils do we use?				
Single-use, reusable/washable, or biodegradable?				

Item	Issue	Location	Effects	Possible Solutions
Are there any water leaks from outside faucets?				
Are there places where wind or water can enter the building?				
What kinds of lights are in the parking area? When are they on?				
What kind of lawn/landscaping do we have? What kind of equipment or service do we use to take care of it? Do they use gas-powered machines?				
Do we have any landscape areas that grow naturally, and are they free of pollution?				
Do we have any blooming trees or flowers that are good for pollinators? Clover ground cover?				
Are there areas of our church property that are covered in mulch or bark? Is it natural with no dyes? If not, what is it made of?				