



## 14 Simple Ways to Save Energy & Money

- 1. Contact your heat provider to get an Energy Audit.** Energy audits are free to many congregations in Iowa and give you access to rebates on energy upgrades.
- 2. Turn off the lights when you leave the room.**
- 3. Buy Energy Star equipment and put it in sleep mode.** Also, consider your phantom load. Phantom load refers to the energy that appliances use even when they're switched off. Plug your copier, computer, television, and other electronic devices into power strips and close the power to the strips when the appliances are not in use.
- 4. Install occupant sensors in places where lights tend to get left on.** Restrooms are an ideal place for occupant sensors, but they are not the only place. Got a basement hallway that is seldom traveled? Meeting rooms are another good application, but you have to keep moving during your meetings or the lights will go out.
- 5. Turn down the lights when daylight is available.** Try banking your lights on switches that allow you to turn off the ones closest to the windows and leave on the ones furthest from natural light. That way you can adjust to the real day lighting present in the room.
- 6. Tune up your Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning system every year.** Systems use less energy when they're working correctly.
- 7. Change and clean filters** to help your blower work more efficiently.
- 8. Install programmable thermostats.** Think about whether one of these would work on your water heater if you really only need hot water on Sundays.
- 9. Install LED light bulbs in place of incandescent light bulbs** and consider upgrading your remaining lighting to more efficient options.
- 10. Install LED exit signs.** They will save you \$30 per year per sign and pay for themselves very quickly.
- 11. Use passive solar.** Reflect heat in the summer by closing the blinds, open them in the winter to take advantage of the heat gain on south-facing windows. Consider transparent window shields on the exterior to reflect more light in the summer without losing the view.
- 12. Use fans to supplement HVAC for greater comfort.** However, don't assume they save energy in the winter since they may just make you feel cooler.
- 13. Plug the holes around doors & windows with caulk and weatherstripping** and add insulation wherever you can.
- 14. Generate awareness of energy issues within your congregation.** Systems are only efficient as the people operating them.