

GREEN ASSESSMENT FOR CONGREGATIONS *(version: Feb 2017)*
by Iowa Interfaith Power & Light (IPL) - Dubuque Chapter

Iowa IPL Staff: Sarah Paulos; Assessment Draft Committee: Mary Armstrong, Judy Giesen, Sr. Joan Lickteig, Carrie Lohrmann and Paul Schultz

Congregation Name: _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

Congregation Assessment Team Members and Assessment Date: ____/____/____

Name	E-mail	Phone	Role

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I. ENERGY		Not Yet 0	Some times 1	Mostly 2	Almost Always 3
1.	<p><u>To what extent</u> are lights, computers, monitors, printers, and other electronic equipment turned off or “powered down” when they are not in use? (<i>occupancy sensors, dimmers, power strips, vending “misers”...</i>) Comments:</p>				
2.	<p><u>To what extent</u> are windows, shades, curtains and outside doors closed when appropriate? Comments:</p>				
3.	<p><u>To what extent</u> are air vents on walls or window sills cleaned, maintained, and kept free of obstructions? Comments:</p>				
4.	<p><u>To what extent</u> does your congregation consider the use of regionally-produced/alternative fuel & energy sources (<i>solar, wind, geothermal, biodiesel</i>) in order to reduce use of fossil fuels? Comments:</p>				

I. ENERGY		Not Yet 0	Some times 1	Mostly 2	Almost Always 3
5.	<p><u>To what extent</u> has your congregation used guidance or services from community energy providers or other conservation resources? (<i>Alliant, Black Hills, Clear Result...</i>) <u>DOUBLE POINTS</u> Comments:</p>				
6.	<p><u>To what extent</u> are Energy Star Certified Products purchased over less energy efficient items? (<i>electronics, appliances, water heaters...</i>) Comments:</p>				
7.	<p><u>To what extent</u> has your congregation updated lighting by switching from incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) or LEDs? (<i>For CFLs: sreplace T-12s with T-8s or T-5s</i>) <u>DOUBLE POINTS</u> Comments:</p>				
8.	<p><u>To what extent</u> does your congregation adhere to seasonally appropriate standard room temperatures, making optimal use of its programable temperature control systems for occupied, low-occupied and unoccupied hours? Comments:</p>				

I. ENERGY		Not Yet 0	Some times 1	Mostly 2	Almost Always 3
9.	<p><u>To what extent</u> does your congregation use energy-saving technologies and practices during off-hours and vacant room times? (<i>appliances, vending machine misers, water heaters...</i>) Comments:</p>				
10.	<p><u>To what extent</u> are mechanical, water and power equipment checked regularly and scheduled for preventative maintenance? Comments:</p>				
11.	<p><u>To what extent</u> does your congregation quantitatively track energy use and resulting estimated generation of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions? (<i>electricity, gas, water and discards/waste</i>)</p> <p><u>Suggestion:</u> EPA Portfolio Manager and Energy Star Resources for Congregations, (<i>tools from the Environmental Protection Agency</i>). www.energystar.gov/congregationswork</p> <p><u>DOUBLE POINTS</u> Comments:</p>				
<p><u>Energy Sub-Totals</u> <u>(Maximum Possible: 42 points)</u></p>					

II. WASTE MINIMIZATION		Not Yet 0	Some times 1	Mostly 2	Almost Always 3
1.	<p><u>To what extent</u> does your congregation practice using both sides of paper? Comments:</p>				
2.	<p><u>To what extent</u> does your congregation used multiple means of communication to reduce paper? (<i>e-mails, website, text notification, social media, display boards...</i>) Comments:</p>				
3.	<p><u>To what extent</u> does your congregation participate in an ongoing commercial or curbside recyclables collection program? (<i>aluminum, cardboard, paper, metals, designated plastics...</i>) Comments:</p>				
4.	<p><u>To what extent</u> does your congregation and staff sort and manage materials for repair, reuse, repurposing, refilling, recycling, composting, anaerobic digestion, reclamation and landfilling? (<i>wood, misc. metals, obsolete electronics, computer printer cartridges and hazardous waste...</i>) Comments:</p>				

II. WASTE MINIMIZATION		Not Yet 0	Some times 1	Mostly 2	Almost Always 3
5.	<p><u>To what extent</u> are recycling bins placed next to trash cans and “waste” baskets in all rooms? Are they marked with lists, examples or pictures of acceptable materials? Comments:</p>				
6.	<p><u>When you have an outdoor program/event</u> do you request and borrow bottle/can recycling and compostables units from your local waste agency? (<i>Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency - DMASWA</i>). Comments:</p>				
7.	<p><u>To what extent</u> does your congregation monitor and track bags of trash and disposed recyclables? (<i>Helps determine your recycling ratios and trends.</i>) Comments:</p>				
8.	<p><u>To what extent</u> does your congregation reuse items to reduce disposal? (<i>mugs, small plates, utensils, signage, brown envelopes, hymn books, seasonal decorations...</i>) Comments:</p>				

II. WASTE MINIMIZATION		Not Yet 0	Some times 1	Mostly 2	Almost Always 3
9.	<p><u>To what extent</u> does your congregation purchase environmentally-preferable products from local vendors? <i>(second-hand, rechargeable, reusable, recycled content, recyclable...)</i> Comments:</p>				
10.	<p><u>To what extent</u> are hazardous materials disposed through an authorized vendor? <i>(mercury containing fluorescent bulbs, paints, batteries with toxic metals...)</i> Comments:</p>				
11.	<p><u>To what extent</u> does your congregation ban the use of Styrofoam and #6 polystyrene plastics? <i>(cups, plates, utensils...)</i> Comments:</p>				
Waste Minimization Sub-Totals (Maximum Possible: 33 points)					

III. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS		Not Yet 0	Some times 1	Mostly 2	Almost Always 3
1.	<u>To what extent</u> does your congregation use less toxic cleaning/maintenance products, and soaps to limit human exposure to harmful ingredients? Comments:				
2.	<u>To what extent</u> does your congregation address litter, especially after activities and, in day-to-day grounds-keeping? Comments:				
3.	<u>To what extent</u> does your congregation select and maintain native plants in landscaping and as indoor seasonal plants and decorations? Comments:				
4.	<u>To what extent</u> do your outdoor spaces demonstrate environmental stewardship and provide opportunities for community conversations? Comments:				

III. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS		Not Yet 0	Some times 1	Mostly 2	Almost Always 3
5.	<p><u>To what extent</u> does your congregation have fruit, vegetable and or edible landscape plants growing on-site and available for feeding families, the hungry, and just foraging and enjoying? Comments:</p>				
6.	<p><u>To what extent</u> is your congregation's landscape debris mulched-mowed, composted or used beneficially? <i>(leaves, grass cuttings, tree and shrub trimmings, fallen branches...)</i> Comments:</p>				
7.	<p><u>To what extent</u> does your congregation use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to reduce the use and exposure to indoor and outdoor toxic materials? <i>(insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides...)</i> Comments:</p>				
Building and Grounds Sub-Totals (Maximum Possible: 21 points)					

IV. FOOD		Not Yet 0	Some times 1	Mostly 2	Almost Always 3
1.	<p><u>To what extent</u> does your congregation sponsor or participate in food drives, provide community meals to feed the hungry, provide volunteers at food pentries and to feed the hungry at soup kitchens? Comments:</p>				
2.	<p><u>To what extent</u> does your congregation support and purchase fair trade and healthy local food and produce? <i>(e.g. Dubuque Farmers Market, fair trade coffee (what %?), fair trade sugar)</i> Comments:</p>				
3.	<p><u>To what extent</u> are vending machines, soda and processed packaged snacks discouraged on congregational property? Comments:</p>				

IV. FOOD		Not Yet 0	Some times 1	Mostly 2	Almost Always 3
4.	<p><u>To what extent</u> are your leftovers from food events used beneficially to feed others? Does your congregation know about and understand the Good Samaritan law pertaining to food donations? <i>The Federal Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act</i> <i>On October 1, 1996, President Clinton signed this act to encourage donation of food and grocery products to non-profit organizations for distribution to individuals in need. This law: Protects you from liability when you donate to a non-profit organization; Protects you from civil and criminal liability should the product donated in good faith later cause harm to the recipient; Standardizes donor liability exposure. You or your legal counsel do not need to investigate liability laws in 50 states....</i> http://www.feedingamerica.org/ways-to-give/give-food/become-a-product-partner/protecting-our-food-partners.html?referrer=https://www.bing.com/ Comments:</p>				
5.	<p><u>To what extent</u> are “food scraps” composted through city collection, onsite, or in congregants’ backyard composters? (<i>food preparation residuals, plate scraping and leftovers</i>) Comments:</p>				
Food Sub-Totals (Maximum Possible: 15 points)					

V. WATER		Not Yet 0	Some times 1	Mostly 2	Almost Always 3
1.	<p><u>To what extent</u> does your congregation promote and utilize consumption of safe tap water to avoid purchasing water in disposable plastic bottles? Comments:</p>				
2.	<p><u>To what extent</u> are low-flow aerators and dual-flush fixtures used in sinks, toilets and showers? Comments:</p>				
3.	<p><u>To what extent</u> are phosphate-free, biodegradable detergents and non-toxic cleaning products used? Comments:</p>				
4.	<p><u>To what extent</u> is rain water captured in rain barrels or cisterns for indoor and outdoor non-potable uses? <i>(landscape, garden plants...)</i> Comments:</p>				
5.	<p><u>To what extent</u> does your congregation manage quantity/quality of storm water runoff from impervious surfaces <i>(roofs, drives, parking lots...)</i> and direct runoff to on-site or beneficial off-site use? <i>(infiltration, bioretention...)</i> Comments:</p>				
Water Sub-Totals (Maximum Possible: 15 points)					

VI. AIR QUALITY		Not Yet 0	Some times 1	Mostly 2	Almost Always 3
1.	<u>To what extent</u> are all exhaust fans vented outside? Comments:				
2.	<u>To what extent</u> are low or non-VOC (volatile organic compound) paints and finishes used? Comments:				
3.	<u>To what extent</u> does your congregation assess indoor and outdoor fine particle (<i>PM 2.5</i>) air pollution? Comments:				
4.	<u>To what extent</u> Are strategies used to reduce vehicle-idling air pollution on congregational premises? Comments:				
5.	<u>To what extent</u> are raking, sweeping and vacuuming used to remove dirt, grass clipping and leaves from congregational pavement, curbs and gutters? (<i>Leaf blowers create a lot of airborne pollution...</i>) Comments:				
Air Quality Sub-Totals (Maximum Possible: 15 points)					

VII. EDUCATION AND WORSHIP		Not Yet 0	Some times 1	Mostly 2	Almost Always 3
1.	<p><u>To what extent</u> are congregants involved in promoting and implementing green programs and environmental practices in the wider community? Comments:</p>				
2.	<p><u>To what extent</u> To what extent do communications, events and practices address environmental and social justice issues? (<i>Care of Creation, simple living, clean energy, clean water...</i>) Comments:</p>				
3.	<p><u>To what extent</u> To what extent do preaching, teaching, youth programs, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School address environmental and social justice issues? Comments:</p>				
4.	<p><u>To what extent</u> does your congregation address environmental and social justice concerns with staff, congregants, and congregation committees? (<i>climate change, water pollution, overconsumption...</i>) Comments:</p>				
Education and Worship Sub-Totals (Maximum Possible: 12 points)					

VIII. MOVING FORWARD		Not Yet 0	Some times 1	Mostly 2	Almost Always 3
1.	<p><u>To what extent</u> has your congregation reviewed and completed a list of priorities and an overall written plan with milestones and next steps identified in this assessment process? <u>DOUBLE POINTS</u> Comments:</p>				
2.	<p><u>To what extent</u> is your congregation reporting progress on green assessment improvements? Comments:</p>				
Moving Forward Sub-Totals (Maximum Possible: 9 points)					

IX. SCORING TOTALS - EVALUATION (Maximum Possible Points: 165)		
Points Earned	Where You Are	Score
0-42	There are many great things you can do to make your congregation a greener place.	Red
43-84	You have made progress, but have more green initiatives to start or improve.	Yellow
85-126	You are doing well and working hard towards greening your congregation.	Blue
127-165	Congratulations! Your congregation is a very vibrant shade of green already!	Green