

Comfort & Light

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE INTERFAITH COALITION ON ENERGY

Interfaith Coalition on
Energy
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The Archdiocese of
Philadelphia



The Board of Rabbis of
Greater Philadelphia



The Metropolitan
Christian Council of
Philadelphia



The American Jewish
Committee Philadelphia
Chapter

EPA's Energy Star Out of Reach in the Real World



Like plastic slipcovers on a summer night, the Environmental Protection Agency's efforts are sometimes misguided. Following its questionable opinions on underground fuel tanks and asbestos, the EPA has now created a maximum energy intensity for a congregation to declare itself an "Energy Star." A congregation must decrease by 35% its total annual energy use per square foot (measured in British Thermal Units or BTUs). Alternatively, a building used for religious worship has to meet the following energy standard in total BTUs per square foot per year according to the region in which it is located: Northeast—22,800, Midwest—22,400, South—16,300, West—15,900.

In the Philadelphia area, the average total energy use for buildings used for religious worship is about 57,300 BTUs/SF/Year — 2½ times the Energy Star target for the northeast. Bill Rose of EPA in Washington DC told us that no congregations have yet qualified to be an "Energy Star." We think the EPA should have chosen more realistic goals.

What's new about asbestos? In September 1995, the now defunct Office of Technology Assessment printed a book entitled "Risks to Students in Schools" (document number OTA-ENV-066 from the US Government Printing Office.) OTA states on Page 144 that, "Measurements showed, however, that the average levels at asbestos in buildings, including schools, differed little from concentrations in outdoor air. Furthermore, these measurements, made in many buildings over a period of several years, provide no indication of episodic releases of high concentrations of asbestos."

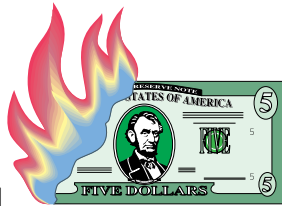
And radon? In July 1996, the Journal of the National cancer Institute published a Finnish study of 1,973 lung cancer patients compared to 2,885 control subjects. The study concludes, "Indoor radon does not appear to be an important cause of lung cancer." **Anybody want to take on the EPA?** ☐

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See the article on page 3 to discover how ICE can help you reach important REALISTIC goals.

Estimated Electric Meter Readings

We are witnessing more and more estimated readings for commercial electric meters. A missed reading of a *residential* water, gas, or electric meter is not as important as a missed reading of a *commercial electric meter*. The difference is the “demand” reading, which measures the peak rate at which you consume kilowatt-hours.



Consider a comparison to an automobile speedometer. While kilowatt-hours are like the miles traveled, **demand**, or kilowatts, is like a miles per hour hand which records the maximum rate of travel. Police are only interested in the *miles per hour*; miles mean very little. Same with utilities.

With electric meters belonging to PECO Energy, the demand is measured every thirty minutes. The demand is set by the greatest number of kilowatt-hours consumed during any one or more of the half-hour periods in between meter readings. There are about 1,460 half-hour periods in a month.

If the time between meter readings stretches to two or more months, the highest demand for the previous months will also register as the billing demand for the subsequent months. If the current month demand is actually lower, you will be overbilled because the cost per kilowatt-hour is determined by the demand. PECO’s computers are not programmed to recompute past bills with a higher estimated billing demand than that recorded in a current month, so look at each estimated bill carefully.

You can always appeal PECO’s judgement. The following is an example of what we mean:

Demand Charges in Kilowatts

Month:	What PECO billed	What may have been real use
November	28 kW actual	28 kW actual
December	35 kW estimated	28 kW actual
January	35 kW actual	35 kW actual

Let’s assume that the number of kilowatt-hours billed was 6,000 per month. If your congregation successfully appealed the above billing demand, your savings would be over \$80 just for the month of December.

Since many buildings owned by congregations are usually locked when unoccupied, utility meter readers can’t read any meters located inside the

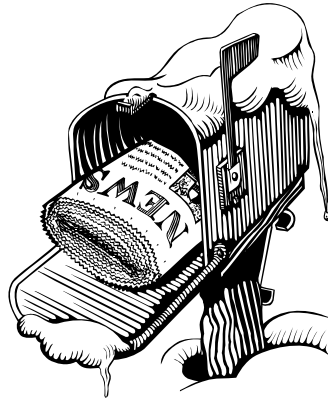
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building. We recommend that congregations provide keys to the utilities—there is very little risk in comparison with the benefit of regular meter readings. Or, provide the utility with instructions for obtaining the keys (from a neighbor, for instance). Also, if you change or add even one lock, don’t forget to share the keys with the utilities: just one unopenable lock blocks entry. With new construction or major renovation, plan for electric meters outside the building.

If PECO consistently estimates your meter readings, please contact ICE. ☐

ADVICE from ICE

Now that the heating season is upon us, perhaps you should call on ICE to help you lower your electric, gas, oil and water bills. In the past sixteen years we have provided advice to about 500 congregations in and around Philadelphia. More importantly, we have learned a lot from the congregations that have been successful in reducing their energy costs.



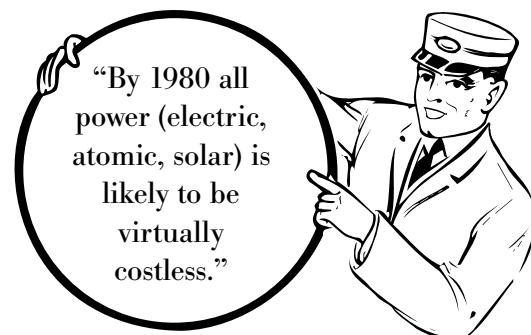
Whether we are advising you about a new boiler only, or doing a complete survey of your facilities, our fee is \$65 per hour. We answer questions over the phone without charge. We occasionally run informal energy workshops to discuss any problems you may be having with the utilities or the energy-consuming systems in your buildings. Our workshops are free of charge.

ICE offers reports that summarize some of our research. The charge is \$5 per report, as listed below:

- Ineffectiveness of ceiling fans
- Guidelines for new buildings and major renovations
- Cool temperatures and pipe organs
- Guidelines on calculating the cost of renting space
- Energy and lifestyle
- Construction questions for design professionals
- Interior temperatures as low as 45F
- Energy and environmental activities for congregations
- Energy savings from double glazing
- Articles by Andrew Rudin from YOUR CHURCH magazine
- Ceramic panel gas infrared heating
- Reflectors inside fluorescent fixtures
- Energy used in parsonages
- Lightning: protecting worship centers
- Steam traps and their maintenance
- Data on religious building energy use

Whether you would like to attend a workshop, read our reports, or have us examine your facilities, just give ICE a call at (215) 635-1122. ☐

Henry Luce, *The Fabulous Future*, 1956
(Founder and publisher of Time, Life and Fortune Magazines)



SOME RULES TO LIVE BY

(from Arch Street Methodist Church)

1. If you open it – close it.
2. If you turn it on – turn it off.
3. If you unlock it – lock it.
4. If you move it – put it back.
5. If it belongs to someone else and you want it – get permission.
6. If you borrow it – return it.
7. If you don't know how to operate it – leave it alone.
8. If you use it – take care of it.
9. If you break it – repair it.
10. If you can't fix it – call someone who can.
11. If you mess it up – clean it up.
12. If it will brighten someone's day – say it.

FREE COMPACT FLUORESCENT LAMPS



Stephen Randall of Applied Energy Management is offering partially used 13-watt PL lamps to ICE member institutions. The lamps (see drawing) do not include the ballast, which is needed to operate the lamp. If you are interested, please call ICE at (215) 635-1122. Your only cost will be shipping.



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PLEASE ROUTE TO:

- Building and Grounds Chairperson
- Congregation President
- Treasurer
- Clergy

