

What Has the Interfaith Coalition on Energy Done for You Recently?

We thought you might like to know how we serve you – what types of activities we do day to day...

Temperature recording – We currently have dozens of small temperature recorders installed in churches, meetinghouses and synagogues in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Washington DC. The recordings provide a huge amount of information. One recorder hangs outside the building, and usually one per heating zone hangs inside. Over a week, just over 2,000 recordings are made – one every five minutes. The resulting temperature charts tell us the average temperature outside and in each zone, how quickly the zones heat up and cool off on days of different temperatures, whether a thermostat controls the temperature, and much more.

Help with heating systems – ICE is advising a half-dozen congregations on replacing boilers or heating systems. Often, we will analyze problems with a qualified contractor to obtain a high quality proposal for a fair price. By doing so, the congregation receives a very specific solution to their heating problems.

Rate intervention – We have intervened in the Philadelphia Water Department’s rate increase procedure on behalf of congregations in the City of Philadelphia.

Utility refunds – Roughly 3,000 of the new automatic meter reading (AMR) electric meters from PECO Energy are faulty. Worse, standard meters that must be read manually are often not being read at all. So, we spend considerable time correcting the resulting over-billings. One Episcopal church received a refund of about \$8,000 with our help.

Planning processes – We consulted with a congregation who is planning a renovation by examining and commenting on their construction documents. We also sell a document about construction and renovation for \$10.

Training programs – Last February we made presentations at a meeting of the Delaware Valley Church Business Administrators and at a meeting of Quaker meetinghouse managers. In April, we will describe ICE to a public gathering, and in May, we are going to train congregations and energy professionals in the Erie, PA area to understand how congregations relate to energy and how to conduct an energy survey of congregation facilities.

“And, Normal activities” – A normal day involves answering questions that come in via email, website or from the phone. Sometimes, our response is sending out one of our publications. At other time, we refer folks to contractors or vendors for specific solutions to problems. Energy? Yes, lots of energy questions – but also questions about fire alarm systems, termite control, and many other topics. We also publish this newsletter.

What can we do for your congregation to help lower energy costs and use?

Free Exhibition

The Traditional Building conference and exposition is coming to the Pennsylvania Convention Center. The conference starts on April 27, 2005. The expo opens a day later and is free, with over 200 exhibitors and thousands of hard-to-find products and services for repairing and restoring historic buildings. On each day, the expo starts at 10am and ends at 5pm, except on the day the event ends – April 30 – when it closes at 3pm. See www.traditionalbuildingshow.com for more information and to register. ICE

Philadelphia Beyond Oil Teach-In & Conference

The Shalom Center is part of an interfaith and community led effort to highlight the problems of OIL in our society. From war to the current climate crisis, from economic dependence to human rights abuses, oil exerts a strong and often unwelcome influence in addition to its benefits of electricity, heating, and gasoline. Beyond Oil is scheduled for September 18th, 2005. Please join the committee putting this event together by emailing Charles Lenchner at clenchner@shalomctr.org or calling 215-844-8494. ICE

Energy and Long-Distance Travel

LONG-DISTANCE BUS is unquestionably the least "fuelish" way to travel, according to the website www.dimeagallon.org of Strawberry Creek (Calif.) Friends Meeting's Deeper Ecology Group.* The following table shows pounds of CO₂ that are released into the atmosphere for different transport modes during a West Coast-East Coast round trip, in terms of gallons of gasoline equivalent per 100 miles; passenger miles per gallon; gallons burned; and the resulting release of carbon dioxide.

• Intercity bus—	0.6 gal. /100 mi.	166 mpg	31 gal.	750# CO ₂
• Carpool (4 people)—	1.1 gal. /100 mi.	91 mpg	56 gal.	1350# CO ₂
• AMTRAK—	1.5 gal. /100 mi.	67 mpg	76 gal.	1800# CO ₂
• Carpool (3 people)—	1.5 gal. /100 mi.	67 mpg	76 gal.	1800# CO ₂
• Carpool (2 people)—	2.2 gal. /100 mi.	45 mpg	112 gal.	2700# CO ₂
• Airplane—	2.5 gal. /100 mi.	40 mpg	127 gal.	3050# CO ₂

These are all averages; more efficient cars, more filled seats, or better track and train design would improve mileage. But the fact remains that moving the physical self across the continent uses one heck of a lot of fuel, no matter how one travels.

How about virtual group travel—lots of e-mail between a few who go and a group who attend "virtually," offering input, questions, prayer support, and attentive listening?—Followed by a group debriefing session in this area?

From Rachel Findley of the Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting ICE

Evangelicals Against Global Warming?

On March 10, 2005 the *New York Times* described a conference of evangelical leaders to support an effort to combat global warming. This is unusual because, according to the Pew Research Center, about four out of five evangelicals voted for President Bush last year.

The *Times* quoted Rev. Rich Cizik, vice president of governmental affairs for the National Association of Evangelicals and a significant voice in the debate, said, "I don't think God is going to ask us how he created the earth, but he will ask us what we did with what he created."

"We're not adverse to government-mandated prohibitions on behavioral sin such as abortion," he said. "We try to restrict it. So why, if we're social tinkering to protect the sanctity of human life, ought we not be for a little tinkering to protect the environment?"

Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut added, "Support from the evangelical and broader religious community can really move some people in Congress who feel some sense of moral responsibility but haven't quite settled on an exact policy response yet. This could be pivotal." ICE

Recycling Stuff

What to do with that old cell phone? After all, nine million are discarded each month in America. And what to do with the rechargeable batteries that no longer keep a charge? Well, you can contact the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation at 877-723-1297 or visit them on line at www.rbrc.org.

RMS Communications of Ocala, FL will buy your old, but still usable, cell phone for \$3 to \$90. They recondition your old phone and sell it to folks in the Caribbean or Latin America where wireless networks are becoming increasingly popular. Their website is www.cellforcash.com. Competing companies are at www.cashmyphone.com and www.cellphonesforcash.com.

If you want to recycle old computers, fax machines, monitors, printers, scanners, or handheld devices, Hewlett Packard can help. You can drop off your equipment at Office Depot stores, or fill out an online form at www.hp.com/hpinfo/globalcitizenship/environment/recycle/. They charge \$13 to \$34. All you do is fill out an on-line form and put your packaged equipment outside for pickup. You can also earn a credit of up to \$50 toward new HP products. Other recyclers are listed at www.nrc-recycle.org/.

Throwplace.com® is an interesting Web site where your congregation can list excess inventory, possessions or goods, providing access to potential users. Charities, businesses or individuals registered with Throwplace.com® are able to search the site for things that they can use, and make requests for items of interest. Items listed on Throwplace are not for sale—they are to be given away.

Your local library may accept books, videos, CDs, DVDs, cassette tapes and so on. Our local library does. Check out www.elkinsparklibrary.org. If you want to mail your stuff, one interesting group is Eco Encore, which raises funds for environmental organizations in the Pacific Northwest through the resale of used books, CDs, videos and DVDs. Through the collection and sale of used media, Eco Encore turns used goods into financial support for the regional environmental movement. See www.ecoencore.org.

EBay is getting involved with recycling, too, working with Intel and many other companies. See pages.ebay.com/rethink/. ICE

INTERFAITH COALITION ON ENERGY



There are a number of reasons to give money to us:

- You may have extra money lying around, and you don't know what to do with it.
- Perhaps you want to support an energy conservation organization that solely represents the interests of people of faith.
- Maybe you like ICE; maybe one of our articles or a phone conversation saved your congregation money.
- Your contribution is tax-deductible.

Whatever your reasons, please send ICE a check so that we may continue to serve.

ICE, 7217 Oak Avenue, Melrose Park, PA 19027

Thanks. ICE