



Georgia Interfaith Power & Light

Energy Improvement Matching Grant Information

Georgia Interfaith Power & Light (GIPL) is pleased to offer Power Wise Energy Improvement Matching Grants to help member congregations pursue energy efficiency. Matching Grants are made possible through the support of The Kendeda Fund.

There are two Power Wise Matching Grant cycles. Applications are due either **May 15** or **November 15** of each year. Decisions will be made within six weeks of the application deadline. Please download the Matching Grant Application to apply: www.gipl.org/content/grants.asp

Matching Grant Requirements

Power Wise Matching Grants are available for amounts up to \$10,000. Recipients are required to make an equal match of money received. For example, a congregation that receives a Matching Grant of \$5,000 must contribute \$5,000 to the cost of the improvement.

Sources of matching funds might include creation care funds, capital improvement funds, building funds, tithes, loans or in-kind services. Matching funds can be raised before or after the application, but they must be in place within six months of the Grant Award. Congregations are also required to provide proof in their application that they will be able to make a one-for-one match of the total grant amount.

All Matching Grant funds must be used for the authorized projects within one year of the grant award. Recipients are required to submit their energy data into our Monthly Bills Tracking System to track their savings. Recipients will also submit a follow-up report one year after the projects are completed. This should include a financial accounting of the grant, initial results of the work, and any creation care commitments or outreach programs completed by your congregation. At this time, we will also evaluate your energy savings based on our Monthly Bills Tracking System.

Qualified Projects

Any congregation or faith-based community (including faith-based schools) that have received an Energy Audit through Georgia Interfaith Power & Light is eligible to apply for a Matching Grant. Congregations are encouraged to apply for funds to implement the Energy Conservation Measures suggested in their Energy Audit Reports.

In general, applications that demonstrate greater energy savings for the money requested will be favored. We also suggest that congregations pursue low-cost, quick payback improvements initially. Past projects will only be funded if they were recommended in the congregation's Energy Audit Report and were completed within the six months preceding the application date.

Energy Conservation Measures eligible for Matching Grants may include, but are not limited to:

- Lighting Upgrades: Replacing incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents (CFL), cold cathode, metal halide, or light-emitting diode (LED) lamps; replacing or retrofitting exit

signs with LED equivalents; or retrofitting T-12 fluorescent light fixtures with T-5, T-8 or LED fixtures.

- ▶ Energy Management Systems: Installing motion or light detectors on light switches, programmable thermostats, or direct digital controls.
- ▶ Equipment Upgrades: Purchasing energy efficient equipment, including Energy Star® kitchen appliances and office equipment. You can apply for a Matching Grant to fund the difference between a low efficiency and the new high efficiency model.
- ▶ Insulation Improvements: Sealing ducts, adding or increasing insulation, or sealing leaks in the building envelope.

Higher cost, slower payback improvements may also qualify for funding as long as the need and benefit of such improvements can be demonstrated. Such improvements may include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ Installing energy efficient heating and air conditioning equipment and water heaters. GIPL will fund the difference between a low efficiency and the new high efficiency model.
- ▶ Upgrading windows and doors
- ▶ Installing solar powered appliances such as solar hot water heaters. A Solar Loan Fund is available for installing photovoltaic panels and solar water heaters that replace electric water heaters. For more information, contact Bob Donaghue or visit [GIPL's website](#).
- ▶ Selected green building measures in new construction that increase energy efficiency
- ▶ Reasonable design fees (10%) can be included in applications for complex projects.

Grants cannot be used to pay down a loan or interest on a loan.

Criteria for Judging Applications

Applications will be judged and scored by the following criteria:

- ▶ Projected energy savings – 50% of the score
- ▶ Projected capacity built within the congregation for future work (financial capital, congregational support and leadership commitment) – 30% of the score
- ▶ Evidence of a commitment to incorporating Creation care into the life of the faith community – 10% of the score
- ▶ Other positive impacts – 10% of the score

GIPL's Power Wise Grant Committee determines grant awards. Committee members with any financial connection or other affiliation with any applicant will abstain from considering that particular application.

To apply for a Power Wise Energy Improvement Matching Grant, please fill out and submit the Matching Grant Application, which is on our website at www.gipl.org/content/grants.asp

If you have any questions, please contact us at info@gipl.org.