



### **Producing a Green Energy Day**

Many people of faith are concerned about our environment. They look to their faith communities for leadership in understanding the faith dimensions of environmental issues as well as practical ways to make a difference on some of the issues. Two of the main issues of concern are “dirty air” and global warming. And one of the prime causes of both of these issues is the way we generate and use our electricity.

A Green Energy Day/Sunday/Sabbath is a focused event to help a congregation understand and respond to the environmental effects of the way we generate and use our electrical power. It can accomplish several things:

- (1) raise awareness in the congregation about the faith issues involved in air pollution and global warming,
- (2) educate the congregation on the specific environmental effects of the way we generate and use electrical power,
- (3) mobilize the congregation for specific actions such as the purchase of green energy and the replacement of incandescent light bulbs with efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs, replacement of appliances with Energy Star appliances,
- (4) enroll the congregation in the wider efforts of Georgia Interfaith Power & Light,
- (5) prepare the congregation for further actions such as energy audits, efficient use audits, solar energy, advocacy, etc.

A Green Energy Day is an informative and enjoyable way to get started. After some advanced preparation, the day itself can involve education and action with people feeling good about what they have accomplished, motivated to take further action and knowing that they can make a difference. Following is a series of what to do to ensure a fun and productive event.

1. Gather a small committee (three to five is ideal) to plan and sponsor the event. Place announcements in the congregation’s newsletter, bulletin, etc. during the four or five weeks preceding Green Energy Day. A list of suggested announcements is attached.

2. Plan Green Energy Day. Possible activities include:
  - a speaker at an adult forum,
  - green activities for children during their education time,
  - eye catching posters displayed
  - an on-line computer with GIPL website displayed
  - a sermon by the pastor (sermon ideas attached),
  - 'I'm shining green' pins for those who take a step towards green,
  - a gift of a tree seedling for those who take a step towards green,
  - a table for signing up for green energy,
  - a table for purchasing compact fluorescent light bulbs,
  - green cookies in the shape of a tree for everyone,
  - an array of green jelly beans, candy, spearmint leaves, etc. at key places,
  - a tree planting after church by the teens.
3. Make sure that GIP&L is lined up to be there with a banner, brochures and other materials appropriate to the day.
4. During the week before, have a congregational member make green cookies.
5. On Green Energy Day, have everything in readiness early in the morning. Start the morning with a prayer appropriate to your congregation (suggestions attached). Thank God for the opportunity to share in co-creating the Earth.
6. After Green Energy Day, get the committee together to evaluate and think of next steps. Turn back to GIP&L any unused materials and turn in the green energy sign-up sheets and the appropriate amount of money for light bulbs sold.