



Green Interfaith Network, Inc.  
PO Box 4293  
Johnson City, TN 37602  
<http://greeninterfaith.org>

**United by a belief**  
that Earth is sacred, we  
work to promote practices  
which protect and enhance  
our relationship to all  
Earth's life-forms and  
natural systems by  
engaging faith communities  
and the people of our  
region to support  
sustainability, accountability  
and equity (justice).  
—GINI Mission Statement—

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## “Cool Congregations in Washington County”

GINI received a \$3,000 grant from the Harris Fund of the East Tennessee Foundation to help Washington County faith groups launch energy efficiency measures in their houses of worship. Local congregations will soon be able to apply for the opportunity to receive a \$500 incentive to improve their energy efficiency.

***To apply for a \$500 incentive, please submit a letter to GINI (address at left) that summarizes the following and includes the names and signatures of at least 2 members from your faith community who have agreed to:***

- 1) *Document your faith group's current energy use and basic ideas for improving energy conservation in your house of worship,*
- 2) *Participate in a site visit or walk-through of your facility,*
- 3) *Develop a written report and communicate with GINI about plans and actions, and*
- 4) *Oversee and conduct your plan of action over the next 2 years.*



Faith group recipients are expected to:

- A) Meet with GINI representatives to analyze current energy use and existing conditions within your house of worship, and develop a communications plan for future discussions.
- B) Keep a record of meetings, decision-making, and action steps, including photographs. (GINI will advise on this.)
- C) Maintain a spreadsheet of energy use to document and help with analysis of savings at your facility.
- D) Publicize your efforts and successes within your faith community and your regional church groups.
- E) Enroll volunteers from your faith group who will implement similar energy efficiency efforts in their homes.
- F) Use initial savings from reduced energy bills to "Pay it Forward," partnering with GINI to issue an incentive to another interested faith group in 2015. *(Note: Based on experience, most churches had accrued enough savings to jump-start another faith group within 6 months.)*