



First Trinity-St. Matthew's building baseline: ENERGYSTAR Rating of 24/100

May 2011

The EPA's ENERGYSTAR for Congregations program has a tool that allows congregations to measure and compare their energy and water use against other congregations on a 1 (worst) to 100 (best) scale. The Creation Care Team has used this tool to determine that our building's ENERGYSTAR baseline rating (based on last year's energy use) is a 24 - meaning that 76% of other congregations use energy more efficiently than we do. Each month our score will change based on energy use.

Churches do not have a great reputation for energy efficiency. Church buildings were built in an earlier less energy-conscious time and newer churches tend to be built with a focus on the initial cost of construction rather than a long-range focus on operational costs. Lights are often left on in rooms that are not being used. Heating and air conditioning systems are often setup so that large areas must be heated or cooled even when only a few persons are gathering for a meeting. Knowing this, the Creation Care Team decided to use the EPA's free ENERGYSTAR® Portfolio Manager as a benchmarking tool to rate the energy efficiency of our facilities, see how our energy use compares relative to other congregations, and evaluate the impact of the changes we make as we seek to improve our score. The good news is that, with a comparatively low rating, the changes we make can significantly improve our rating over time.

In the coming months the Creation Care Team will be studying options for improving our score, evaluating the costs against the energy saved. Members of First Trinity and St. Matthew's with questions about the rating or interested in participating in this important process should contact Chris Orvin, Ed Stock, Ron Morgan, Pastor Tom Knoll, or Barbara Eiden-Molinaro.