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ENERGY STAR UPDATE: Religious Worship Facility Energy Performance Rating Development Save More, Use Less, and Earn the ENERGY STAR

Did you know that a building can earn the ENERGY STAR label just like your refrigerator can? An ENERGY STAR qualified facility meets strict energy performance standards set by EPA and uses less energy, is less expensive to operate, and causes fewer greenhouse gas emissions than a non-qualified facility. The nation's 300,000 houses of worship spend more than \$2 billion on energy each year—to help counter these costs, the ENERGY STAR Network helps congregations improve the performance of their facilities while reducing energy costs. If America's houses of worship cut energy use by 10 percent:

- Nearly \$300 million would be saved for congregations' missions and other priorities.
- More than 1.8 billion kWh of electricity would be available without additional cost and pollution.

For more than a decade, EPA has worked with businesses and organizations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through strategic energy management practices.

To qualify for the ENERGY STAR, a building must score in the top 25 percent based on EPA's National Energy Performance Rating System. To determine the performance of a facility, EPA compares energy use among other, similar types of facilities on a scale of 1-100; buildings that achieve a score of 75 or higher may be eligible for the ENERGY STAR. The EPA rating system accounts for differences in operating conditions, regional weather data, and other important considerations.

Developing A National Energy Performance Rating For Religious Worship Facilities

The Environmental Protection Agency has been working to expand the National Energy Performance Rating system to religious worship Facilities and houses of worship based on the Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration 2003 Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS). This detailed EPA investigation of the 2003 CBECS data identified significant drivers of energy use in houses of worship. These variables were evaluated and incorporated into an initial model whose purpose is to standardize energy use in houses of worship allowing for objective comparisons across different building types and locations. There will be a webinar for stakeholders to present the model and to solicit feedback (see textbox).

Free Information Webinar Benchmarking your House of Worship

WHERE: Online Register at :
<https://energystar.webex.com/training>

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Those responsible for energy decisions in Houses of Worship.

OBJECTIVE:

To understand how Portfolio Manager can be used by managers of Houses of Worship and to provide attendees with an overview of the functionality of the tool.

DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this training is to provide users with a step-by-step understanding of Portfolio Manager to provide them with the knowledge to benchmark their current energy use; track savings; share their data with master accounts; enter upgrades; and understand the outputs shown on the Statement of Energy Performance

For the first time, the proposed energy performance rating will allow houses of worship to be compared with others nationwide. As with all other ENERGY STAR rated buildings, the houses of worship rating will express energy performance on a scale of 1-to-100, with ratings of 75 or higher eligible to earn the ENERGY STAR designation. An energy rating for houses of worship has been long anticipated and will help (owners and/or managers) assess the energy performance of their buildings; make more informed budgetary, investment and management decisions; and help ENERGY STAR partners publicize their energy efficiency achievements. **This new model will be released in Portfolio Manager (a free web-based tool) in August 2009**

House of Worship Rating Frequently Asked Questions

1. What types of facilities does the new House of Worship model apply to?

House of Worship applies to buildings whose primary function is as a place of worship. This includes churches, temples, mosques, synagogues, meetinghouses, and others. The rating applies only to buildings that function as the primary place of worship and not to other buildings that may be associated with a religious organization, such as living quarters, schools, homes, or buildings used primarily for other community activities. The rating applies to worship facilities that have 4,000 permanent seats or fewer.

2. Can my House of Worship facility earn the ENERGY STAR Label?

Yes. On August 31st, 2009, EPA released a House of Worship space type model, which now allows places of worship to receive energy performance ratings. Owners and operators of houses of worship should enter the as-billed

energy consumption for their entire building for a 12-month period along with data for key operating characteristics into Portfolio Manager in order to receive an energy performance rating. To qualify for the ENERGY STAR label, a facility must achieve a rating of 75 or higher on EPA's 1-100 scale. Please see the [Criteria for Rating Building Energy Performance](#) to review additional requirements for applying for the ENERGY STAR.

3. My worship area has high, vaulted ceilings. How does the House of Worship model account for this?

The space type model for House of Worship is based on an analysis of the Department of Energy's Commercial Building Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS) which includes a random sample of houses of worship from across the U.S. By using a nationally representative dataset, EPA is able to account for a variety of common operating and physical characteristics at these facilities. Houses of worship are only compared with other houses of worship. Since most houses of worship have some areas with high or vaulted ceilings, therefore the CBECS population of comparison is expected to have high or vaulted ceilings. Hence, there is no need for a special adjustment.

4. My House of Worship facility has equipment that is very energy intensive (e.g. audio visual equipment). How does the House of Worship model account for the energy consumption of this equipment?

The space type model for House of Worship is based on an analysis of the Department of Energy's Commercial Building Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS) which includes a random sample of houses of worship from across the U.S. The House of Worship model accounts for a variety of common operating and physical characteristics in houses of worship. Houses of worship with more extensive audiovisual equipment (e.g. for internet broadcasting) will also have computers to support their activities, and computers is an input for the rating model. As such, these houses of worship will be fairly evaluated as compared with facilities that do not have computers or internet broadcasts.

5. I have been using Portfolio Manager to benchmark energy and water consumption at my building prior to the release of the House of Worship model. How can I transfer my data into the House of Worship model without losing all of my information?

Buildings that were previously entered into Portfolio Manager using the "Other-Religious Worship" space type will be automatically converted into the new House of Worship space type. These buildings will see a rating starting on August 31, 2009. That rating will be based on information that you have already entered (e.g. square foot and hours of operation), in addition to standard default values for new inputs that are required for a house of worship rating (e.g. seating capacity). In order to receive the most accurate rating, however, you will have to enter your Portfolio Manager account and replace the default values with actual values for your building.

