



FAITH COMMUNITIES GO GREEN

FUNDING SOURCES



WAYS TO HELP YOUR HOUSE OF WORSHIP FINANCE A PROJECT:

Create an environmental building fund.

When you complete your first energy efficiency project, you will begin to see savings on your energy bills. At the end of the payback period, all those savings are now yours to put to good use. Park an agreed upon percentage of your savings in the bank. Record the deposit on a budget line-item earmarked Environmental Building Projects. Ask congregants to donate to the fund. Host fundraising campaigns and watch the fund grow. When the fund has enough money in it to pay for 50% of the next project, then you are ready to apply for a grant to fund the next step in making your building more energy efficient.

Research grant funding opportunities.

Granting foundations look favorably on organizations that can match the requested dollars. By taking the step above, you can provide evidence that you have matching money available.

Write a winning grant application.

If you have never written a grant before, start with the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library. They have an extensive Nonprofit Grants Department supporting both experienced and beginner grant writers. Their staff will guide you on how to find appropriate grant opportunities and how to use their enormous database. They also offer instructional classes on how to write a successful grant application. Classes are in person or virtual. They also provide one-on-one support. Start here, <https://cincinnati.library.org/services/grants/>

PACE financing tool.

PACE financing might be right for you. It enables commercial property owners to finance up to 100% of energy efficiency improvements. Financing is provided by private capital providers at competitive rates with some repayment terms up to 30 years. It is a tool generally used by for-profit organizations. We understand that in some cases PACE financing can be used for nonprofit organizations.

This is not a complete list of ideas and opportunities. We welcome your input. Please share your suggestions and experiences with us at [**info@fcgg.org**](mailto:info@fcgg.org)

There are also lists of a few more grant opportunities for houses of worship found under Resources of the Finances and Grants section.

