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Contact for the Energize your Congregation! Energy Challenge

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## Welcome to Energize Your Congregation! Energy Challenge



Energy savings ideas and tools for you, your congregation leadership, facility managers, and congregation members.





## Dear congregation leaders:

Welcome to **Energize Your Congregation! Energy Challenge**—a fun and easy challenge to get your congregation involved in environmental stewardship. Reducing energy usage equates to a cleaner, greener community—and your congregation an important contributor.

The City of Maplewood has teamed up with Xcel Energy as a Partners in Energy community to help develop a plan to define energy savings that benefits everyone. *Energize your Congregation!* Energy Challenge is a friendly competition that will make an energy and environmental impact.

Through the Challenge, representatives of the City of Maplewood and the Neighborhood Energy Connection are providing you and your members with opportunities to bring energy savings home.

## What is *Energize Your Congregation!* Energy Challenge?

- A three-month challenge that brings together your congregation for a common goal—to improve the environment, save energy and save money.
- A fun way to enlighten, engage and promote energy efficiencies.
- An opportunity for your congregation to come together as team collaborators to earn points for energy actions at home and at church — and an opportunity to earn prizes!

## In this energy saving kit

This package of information includes tools you can use to start your Challenge activities.

- **Energy goal meter** flyer showing energy goals of your congregation to share.
- **Building energy-saving tips** and rebate overview for your facility managers.
- **Case studies of other churches** that have benefitted from Xcel Energy audit programs.
- **Morning energy-saving tips** your congregation can think about getting ready for church.
- **Helpful energy-saving reminders** to include in bulletins, social media or other communications channels.
- **Promotional program materials** to motivate your congregants to take part and rack up points!
- **Details of the *Energize Your Congregation!* Energy Challenge**

## More information and to get started

Contact Terry Chaney at **651.328.6226** or by email at [terryc@thenec.org](mailto:terryc@thenec.org).  
Or, visit [www.maplewoodmn.gov/energizeyourcongregation](http://www.maplewoodmn.gov/energizeyourcongregation).

## **Energize Your Congregation! Energy Challenge Details**

The Maplewood Congregation Challenge will run from September 15 through December 15. Participating congregations will earn points for congregants completing any of the actions below. The Challenge will end December 15. Points will be tallied and Maplewood will award the winning congregation a FREE party catered by the 5-8 Tavern and Grill. Points will be self-reported and may be verified using Xcel Energy program participation records. A tracking sheet will be distributed monthly to record self-reported points.\* Self-reported points may be verified with Xcel Energy records before the final prizes are awarded. All tracking sheets should be returned by the 25th of each month for points to be reflected in that month's tally. The exception will be the final month where you will have until Dec 30, 2016 to submit your points for activity completed by Dec 15.

### **Congregation Visit**

**5 Pts**

Through the *Energize Your Congregation!* Energy Challenge, representatives of Maplewood and the Neighborhood Energy Connection (NEC) will attend an event or service at your congregation to provide your members with opportunities to bring energy savings to your home.

### **Home Energy Squad®**

**1 Pt**

When you sign up for a visit from the Home Energy Squad brought to you by Xcel Energy, a team of trusted energy experts will schedule a time to come to your home and install optional energy-saving improvements that include a programmable thermostat, LED lightbulbs, door weather stripping, a low-flow showerhead, aerators and more. The \$70 trip fee is half off (only \$35) for Challenge participants and includes all materials installed during the visit. To request an appointment, go to [HomeEnergySquad.net](http://HomeEnergySquad.net) or call 866.222.4595. If you refer your friends and neighbors to Home Energy Squad and they complete a visit, **you receive 1 point per referral!**

### **Home Audit**

**1 Pt**

Completing a standard or infrared audit can help homeowners identify cost-effective energy efficiency projects. NEC energy experts will analyze your home with diagnostic tools and provide you with concrete recommendations to improve your home's energy performance. To learn more, call 800.895.4999 or visit [thenec.org/programs/home-energy-assessment](http://thenec.org/programs/home-energy-assessment). Check out the option to earn even more points by completing a home audit and a Home Energy Squad visit at the same time.

### **Get your extra refrigerator or freezer recycled for free**

**1 Pt**

Xcel Energy will come and pick up your old, working secondary refrigerator and give you a cash rebate for recycling it. You might see a drop in your energy bill as well. For more information about eligibility and scheduling a pick-up call 800.599.5795 or visit [xcelenergy.com/Fridge](http://xcelenergy.com/Fridge).

### **Encourage local businesses to sign up for a free MN Energy Smart consultation**

**1 Pt**

If you know a local business owner, request that they sign up for a free On-Site Energy Consultation. An Energy Smart staff member will walk through the building to take a look at energy-consuming equipment to identify potential strategies for reducing energy usage. Where opportunity exists, Energy Smart may record information (number of lights and type, number of computers, number and type of motors, etc.) in order to provide in-depth savings potential information. For more information, call 651.292.4652 or visit [mnenergysmart.com](http://mnenergysmart.com).

### **Become a Windsource® subscriber**

**1 Pt per 300 kwh block**

If you subscribe to Windsource, you can get more of your energy from renewable resources. The starting subscription level of 1 block is less than \$1 per month, or you can choose to power 100% of your usage with wind energy for roughly \$4-\$7 per month (this is in addition to your standard electricity charge). You can apply by calling 800.895.4999 or by visiting [xcelenergy.com/Windsource](http://xcelenergy.com/Windsource).

\*Only completed actions qualify for points. If an action is scheduled and completed in two different months, please wait to record points in the month when the action was completed. For example: If a congregant schedules a refrigerator recycling pick-up in September and the pick-up happens on Oct. 5, the points should be included in October's self-reporting survey, not September's.