

Northeast Ecumenical Stewardship Council

***Yes, You Can...***  
**Protect Creation and**  
**Save Money for Your Church**  
***Draft an Environmental Plan***

Stewardship of Creation as Christian Mission – Part II

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Earth Stewards Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

# What Is an Environmental Plan?

- **Policies and actions, adopted by consensus, that:**
  - Demonstrate the commitment of a parish or congregation to maintaining Creation for the benefit of all
  - Demonstrate the parish's or congregation's efforts to understand its relationship with God and God's creation
- **Commitments and efforts, made as a body and made individually, to use:**
  - Less energy
  - Less water
  - Fewer material objects from finite resources



# Creating the Desire for an Environmental Plan

- The first practical step in becoming stewards of Creation in your parish or congregation
- It might be mandated from denominational leadership (Bishop / Convention)
- An opportunity for engagement with leadership
  - Priest or Pastor
  - Vestry or Board
- Important: Leaders need to support individuals with a passion for environmental issues



# Making a Parish Environmental Plan

## Plan Ahead

- Build a plan to be adopted by the Vestry / Board and by parishioners at the Annual Parish Meeting
  - Pick 3 to 4 objectives to focus on in a year
  - Make your objective measurable so you can evaluate and document your progress



# Making a Parish Environmental Plan

## Develop Goals

### •Earth Stewards Committee (Vermont):

- Foster an awareness of a right relationship with God and God's Creation
- Deepen an understanding of our relationship with Creation through worship, liturgy and personal study and collaboration.
- Engage in lifestyle changes that promote environmental responsibility and sustainability
- Inspire and support congregations in protecting our earth, water, air, and atmosphere.



# Making a Parish Environmental Plan

## Be Realistic

### Objectives should reflect actions that:

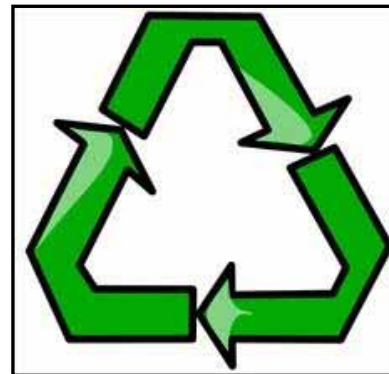
- are doable
- increase parishioners' awareness and understanding of the environmental impacts of their actions and choices
- result in measurable changes in energy use, water use, water pollution, food importation, and the generation of waste products

# Suggestions for Possible Objectives

- **Celebrate the Creation...**
  - and use liturgy to enhance environmental responsibility and sustainability around Earth Day, Rogation Sunday, St. Francis Day, other appropriate days.
- **Institute an Adult Study Program...**
  - on environmental issues. Some possible resources are:  
<http://interfaithpowerandlight.org/resources/study-guides/>,  
<http://interfaithpowerandlight.org/resources/for-congregations/>
- **Make a unit in the Church School...**
  - about environmental issues. Some possible resources are:  
<http://interfaithpowerandlight.org/resources/for-children-and-youth/>
- **Form Eco-Teams...**
  - to help parishioners reduce their personal carbon footprint by using the *Low Carbon Diet Workbook*, available at:  
<http://www.vtipl.org/>.

# Suggestions for Possible Objectives

- **Compost food waste** from parish activities and yard waste from parish grounds. Publish locations where composting is available and encourage parishioners to use them.
- **Recycle paper and other recyclable things** used in the church. Encourage parishioners to do the same.
- **Purchase products that can be recycled**, or are made from recycled products.





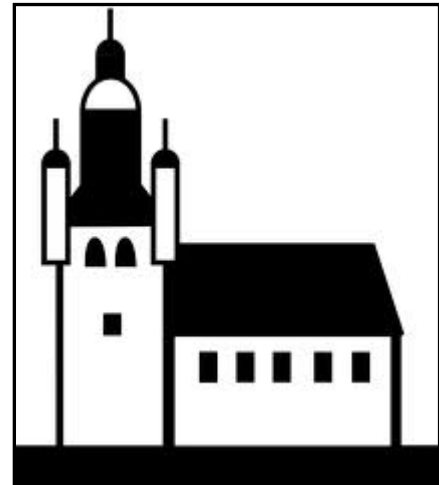
# Suggestions for Possible Objectives

- **Identify sources of locally grown food** (50-mile radius). Use them for parish activities. Encourage parishioners to use them.
- **Promote the development or expansion of community gardens** so the parish can sponsor (insert number) community dinners per year, using locally grown food.
- **Close off unused spaces** and keep them at a lower temperature. Keep doors closed between heated and unheated spaces.
- **Install programmable thermostats**



# Suggestions for Possible Objectives

- **Seal windows and / or install window quilts** in parish house windows.
- **Insulate the church buildings.**  
(After a capital campaign, this may well be doable.)
- **Increase car pooling and ride sharing for parish activities** so that (insert number) percent of parishioners are sharing rides to parish functions.



# Suggestions for Possible Objectives

- **Measure the carbon footprint of the parish** (see calculator at: <http://interfaithpowerandlight.org/resources/cool-congregations-carbon-calculator/> ).
- **Have parishioners measure their own carbon footprint** ([http://www.empowermentinstitute.net/lcd/lcd\\_files/LC DcalcNet.html](http://www.empowermentinstitute.net/lcd/lcd_files/LC DcalcNet.html) ) and encourage reduction of the footprints.
- **Change all incandescent light bulbs** in church buildings to compact fluorescent lamps or LED bulbs, where applicable.



# The Smart Money— Taking Advantage of Resources That Are Waiting for You



Find your Energy Solutions.

**Start Here.**

A green silhouette of a mountain range, positioned behind the text 'Efficiency Vermont'.

Efficiency Vermont

# Does Your Denomination Have a Green Building Fund?



## Look for:

- Loan Terms
- Green Programs (“Greening Your Church”)
- Assistance with Building / Renovation Process
- Assistance with Congregational Planning Process

Episcopal Church Building Fund

<http://www.ecbf.org/>

# **Energy Efficiency and Renewable Resources**

## **What's Out There, State by State**

**Connecticut**

**Maine**

**Massachusetts**

**New Hampshire**

**Rhode Island**

**Vermont**

# Your Friend: [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org)

**DSIRE™**  
*Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY** | Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

**IREC**  
INTERSTATE RENEWABLE ENERGY COUNCIL

**NORTH CAROLINA SOLAR CENTER**

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**DSIRE SOLAR**  
solar policy information

DSIRE is a comprehensive source of information on state, local, utility and federal incentives and policies that promote renewable energy and energy efficiency. Established in 1995 and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, DSIRE is an ongoing project of the N.C. Solar Center and the Interstate Renewable Energy Council.

Choose one or both databases:  
 Renewable Energy     Energy Efficiency    **Federal Incentives**

**Resources**

- RPS Data
- Summary Maps
- Summary Tables
- Library
- Search
- What's New?

**myDSIRE**  
customize DSIRE for your organization



## MASSACHUSETTS

### Incentives/Policies for Renewables & Efficiency



[See Federal Incentives](#)



[See All Summaries](#)



[See Residential Incentives Only](#)

## Resources

RPS Data

Summary Maps

Summary Tables

Library

Search

What's New?

myDSIRE

customize DSIRE for your organization

## Financial Incentives

### Corporate Deduction

- [Excise Tax Deduction for Solar- or Wind-Powered Systems](#)

### Corporate Exemption

- [Excise Tax Exemption for Solar- or Wind-Powered Systems](#)

### Industry Recruitment/Support

- [Alternative Energy and Energy Conservation Patent Exemption \(Corporate\)](#)
- [Alternative Energy and Energy Conservation Patent Exemption \(Personal\)](#)

### Local Loan Program

- [New Generation Energy - Community Food Service Efficiency Lending Program](#)
- [New Generation Energy - Community Solar Lending Program](#)

### Local Rebate Program

- [Boston - Renew Boston Residential Retrofit Program](#)
- [Cape Light Compact - Commercial, Industrial and Municipal Buildings Energy Efficiency Rebate Program](#)
- [Cape Light Compact - Residential Energy Efficiency Rebate Program](#)

### PACE Financing

- [Local Option - Energy Revolving Loan Fund](#)

### Performance-Based Incentive

- [Massachusetts DOER - Solar Renewable Energy Credits \(SRECs\)](#)

### Personal Tax Credit

- [Residential Renewable Energy Income Tax Credit](#)





## MASSACHUSETTS

### Incentives/Policies for Renewables & Efficiency



## Resources

[RPS Data](#)[Summary Maps](#)[Summary Tables](#)[Library](#)[Search](#)[What's New?](#)

## myDSIRE

customize  
DSIRE for your  
organization

## Local Option - Energy Revolving Loan Fund

Last DSIRE Review: 09/01/2010

### Program Overview:

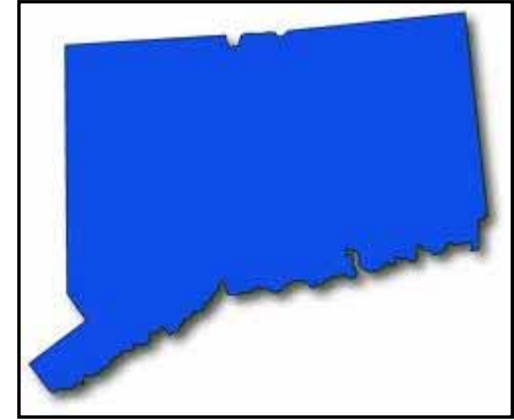
State:	Massachusetts
Incentive Type:	PACE Financing
Eligible Efficiency Technologies:	Locally determined
Eligible Renewable/Other Technologies:	Solar Water Heat, Photovoltaics, Locally determined
Applicable Sectors:	Commercial, Industrial, Residential
Terms:	Financing amount locally determined; 20-year financing term
Authority 1:	<a href="#">H.B. 4877 (Chapter Law 188)</a>
Date Enacted:	07/27/2010
Date Effective:	07/27/2010

### Summary:

**Note: The Federal Housing Financing Agency (FHFA) issued a [statement](#) in July 2010 concerning the senior lien status associated with most PACE programs. In response to the FHFA statement, most local PACE programs have been suspended until further clarification is provided.**

Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing effectively allows property owners to borrow money to pay for energy improvements. The amount borrowed is typically repaid via a special assessment on the property over a period of years. Massachusetts has authorized local governments to establish such programs, as described below. (Not all local governments in

# Connecticut



## Financial Incentives

**Leasing Program** (solar)

**Local Loan Program**

**Local Rebate Program** (Litchfield Hills)

**State Grant Program** (community innovations, on-site renewables)

**State Loan Program** (energy conservation, low-interest for combined heat & power, residential energy efficiency)

**State Rebate Program** (geothermal, solar PV, solar hot water)

**Utility Loan Program** (several small business “energy advantage” programs)

**Utility Rebate Program** (many energy efficiency rebates)

# Connecticut



## Rules, Regulations & Policies

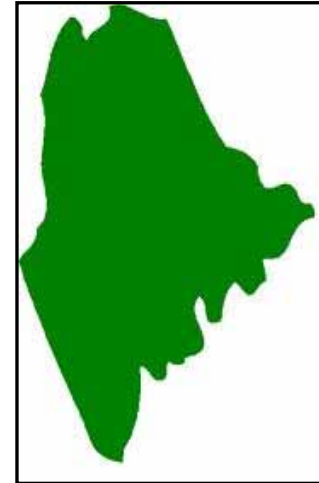
- Appliance / Equipment Efficiency Standards
- Building Energy Code with Green Building Provisions Contractor Licensing (solar and wind)
- Energy Efficiency Resource Standard
- Net Metering
- Public Benefits Fund: Connecticut Clean Energy Fund
- Renewables Portfolio Standard

# Maine

[www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org)

## Financial Incentives

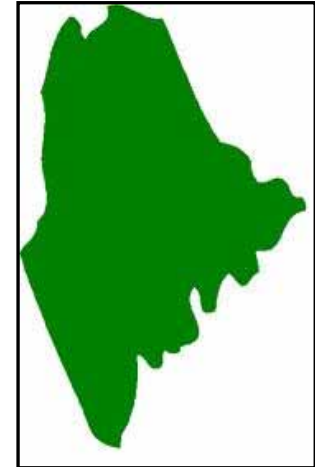
- Local Loan Program
- PACE Financing
- Performance-Based Incentive
- Sales Tax Incentive
- State Grant Program
- State Loan Program
- State Rebate Program
- Utility Rebate Program



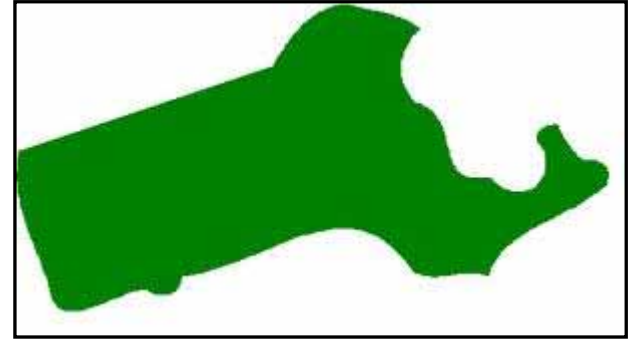
# Maine

## Rules, Regulations & Policies

- Appliance / Equipment Efficiency Standards
- Building Energy Code
- Maine Model Building Energy Code
- Solar Hot Water Contractor Licensing
- Mandatory Utility Green Power Option
- Net Metering
- Public Benefits Fund
- Renewables Portfolio Standard
- Solar Access Law / Guideline
- Solar / Wind Permitting Standards



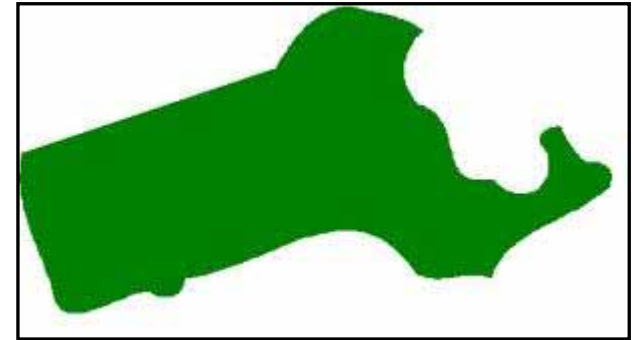
# Massachusetts



## Financial Incentives

- **Local Loan Program**
- **Local Rebate Program** (Cape Light Compact rebates)
- **PACE Financing** (Revolving loan fund)
- **Performance-Based Incentive**
- **State Grant Program** (DOER efficiency and renewables grants; MassCEC wind, hydropower incentives)
- **State Loan Program** (MassCEC wind incentives)
- **State Rebate Program** (Major renovations program, solar hot water, solar, wind)
- **Utility Loan Program** (Holyoke Gas & Electric, MassSAVE-HEAT Loan program, National Grid)
- **Utility Rebate Programs**

# Massachusetts



## Rules, Regulations & Policies

- **Appliance / Equipment Efficiency Standards**
- **Building Energy Standard**
- **Energy Efficiency Resource Standard**
- **Generation Disclosure:** Fuel mix and emissions disclosure
- **Green Power Purchasing:** Boston and Massachusetts
- **Net Metering**
- **Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard**
- **Public Benefits Fund:** Energy Efficiency Fund & Renewable Energy Trust Fund
- **Renewables Portfolio Standard**
- **Solar Easements and Rights Laws**
- **Solar/Wind Permitting Standards**

# New Hampshire



## Financial Incentives

- **Local Loan Program**
- **PACE Financing:** Energy efficiency, clean energy districts
- **State Grant Program:** Community Development Finance Authority
- **State Loan Program:** CDFR Enterprise Energy Fund - Loan program and more
- **State Rebate Program:** Pay for Performance, residential solar hot water, wood pellet boilers, furnaces
- **Utility Grant Program:** Low-Income Assistance, energy rewards
- **Utility Loan Program:** SmartSTART Energy Efficiency Loan Program
- **Utility Rebate Program:** Many from National Grid, New Hampshire Electric Co-op, Public Service of New Hampshire, Until)



# New Hampshire

## Rules, Regulations & Policies

- Building Energy Code
- Net Metering
- Public Benefits Fund
- Renewables Portfolio Standard
- Solar Access Law / Guideline



# Rhode Island



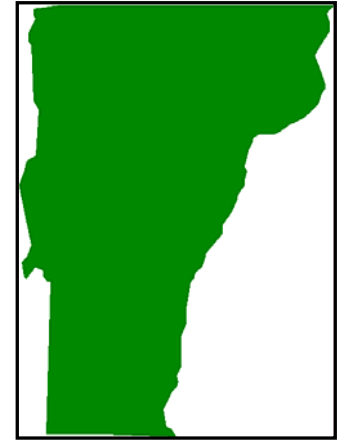
## Financial Incentives

- **Local Loan Program**
- **State Grant Program** (RIEDC – Renewable Energy Fund Grants)
- **State Loan Program** (RIEDC - Renewable Energy Fund Loans)
- **Utility Rebate Program** (National Grid)

## Rules, Regulations & Policies

- **Appliance / Equipment Efficiency Standards**
- **Energy Efficiency Resource Standard**
- **Net Metering**
- **Public Benefits Fund** (Rhode Island Renewable Energy Fund)
- **Renewables Portfolio Standard**
- **Solar Access Law / Guideline**

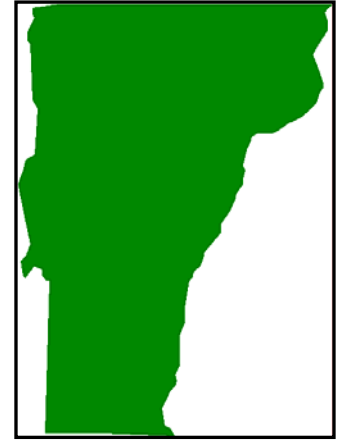
# Vermont



## Financial Incentives

- **Local Loan Program:** Solar
- **PACE Financing:** Clean energy districts
- **Performance-Based Incentive:** Biomass, solar
- **State Loan Program:** CEDF, VEDA, Efficiency Vermont
- **State Rebate Program:** Efficiency Vermont (lighting and LEDs, Home Performance, HVAC, small commercial refrigeration, residential new construction, small-scale renewables)
- **Utility Grant Program:** Biomass through CVPS
- **Utility Loan Program:** Vermont Gas residential energy efficiency loan and rebate program
- **Utility Rebate Program:** Burlington Electric, Vermont Gas

# Vermont



## Rules, Regulations & Policies

- Appliance / Equipment Efficiency Standards
- Building Energy Code
- Energy Efficiency Resource Standard: Energy Reduction Goals
- Net Metering
- Public Benefits Fund: Clean Energy Development Fund
- Renewables Portfolio Standard: Sustainably Priced Energy Enterprise Development Goals
- Solar and Wind Access Law: Renewable Energy Rights

# More Resources

<http://www.ecbf.org/Green-Your-Church.html>

## **Green Faith Certification program**

- **Leading national religious group encouraging congregations to go green**
- **Engages an entire congregation in:**
  - Education
  - Worship
  - Environmental justice advocacy
  - Building & grounds
  - Building relationships with the interfaith community
- **Application deadline is past, but there might be an extension**
- **Partner: <http://greenfaith.org/>**

# More Resources

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/environment>

## **Environmental ministries**

- **Eco-Justice Lenten Resources**
- **Green Faith Partnership**
- **Environmental Justice Policy**
- **Sermons on Economics and the Environment**

**Thank you!**

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