

HELP YOUR CONGREGATION WIN \$10,000 ENERGY EFFICIENCY UPGRADE

West Virginia Interfaith Power and Light (WVIPL) is partnering with Appalachian Power Company (APCO) to help congregations and non-profit organizations become more energy efficient beginning in May, 2015.

Emmett Pepper, member of the WVIPL Steering Committee and director of Energy Efficient West Virginia explained that “thanks to EEWV's advocacy in the Mitchell Power Plant Case, AEP has a new, significant, free efficiency program for Appalachian Power and Wheeling Power customers.”

On Sunday, May 17 from 4:00-6:00pm representatives from congregations and other non-profits are invited to an Energy Assessment Training, to be conducted by Jim Fawcett, manager of APCO's Energy Efficient and Alternative Energies Initiative. The training will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 520 Kanawha Boulevard West, Charleston.

Pepper explained the competition to get congregations involved: “EEWV did a pilot program in the East End of Charleston to have blocks compete to save the most energy, but it was only in a small area. To incentivise nonprofits to push for energy efficiency we worked up a nonprofit competition, with the hope that congregations and their members and friends will participate to help reduce their energy costs.”

The competition to see which congregation or nonprofit's members will have the most Energy Assessments works as follows:

A congregation or other non-profit signs up to participate in the competition by having an APCO representative train interested members on how the competition works and what the Energy Assessment involves. This step is being offered May 17 at the UU Congregation, along with the opportunity to learn more about WVInterfaith Power and Light.

After the Energy Assessment training a congregation gets as many of its members and friends to get a free home Energy Assessment, which should help households lower their electric bills. Each household that participates “earns” \$10 (ten dollars) worth of energy efficiency upgrades for the congregation where they are a member or friend.

You do not have to be a home owner to participate – the Assessment is open to renters with their landlord's permission.

During a home Energy Assessment, a trained energy contractor comes to your home to give you expert advice tailored to your home on how to reduce your energy bills. Each participating household receives a “goody box” of items such as high efficiency light bulbs, pipe insulation and low-flow faucet attachments, to help start saving energy immediately.

At the end of the competition, by May 2016, AEP will add up how many home Energy Assessments were logged for each congregation or nonprofit. The congregation or nonprofit that gets the most people to do home Energy Assessments will get a \$10,000 energy efficiency upgrade for its building!

Admission to the May 17 event is free; however, WVIPL seeks to make energy efficiency available to all, so those attending are encouraged to bring collect energy efficient lightbulbs from members of their congregation (either cfl or led). These lightbulbs will then be made available to food pantries and disaster relief efforts. A free will offering during the event will go towards purchasing energy efficient lightbulbs for the same purpose.

West Virginia Interfaith Power and Light offers people of faith a religious response to global warming. Over 40 states are part of Interfaith Power and Light which engages faith communities and individuals in collective action, from education on climate change, to energy saving activities, to policy advocacy.

For additional information about the Energy Assessments or WVIPL, contact Emmett Pepper at emmett@eewv.org. (energy audits) and Rev. Rose Edington or Rev. Mel Hoover at [304-346-6645](tel:304-346-6645) (May 17 event).