

Task of the Month

Most congregations see caring for our Earth as a moral and ethical issue, but people often don't know where to start. Task of the Month is a program to help individuals take action.

Set a goal for your members to reduce the amount of natural gas and electricity energy used in their homes by at least 14% per meter. This is more manageable if taken one step at a time, and includes both improving homes and changing habits.

Following this program will strengthen your sense of community and ensure that the most important, effective first steps are taken.

[Click](#) to see monthly posters. Email contact@earthcareindiana.org for individual posters.

Read through this list of tasks, refer to each month's flier, and perform a task each month

Estimated

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Month</u>	<u>Suggested Monthly Task</u>	<u>Annual Savings*</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> January	Locate and seal air leaks. (Ask for help with largest ones!)	\$70
<input type="checkbox"/> February	Insulate water heater & lower heater temperature to 120°F.	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> March	Install low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators.	\$10
<input type="checkbox"/> April	Replace your incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs.	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> May	Wash clothes in cold water; air dry clothes.	\$90
<input type="checkbox"/> June	Have your AC unit professionally serviced; clean refrigerator coils.	\$60
<input type="checkbox"/> July	Set your AC thermostat to 78°F when home; higher when away.	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> August	Cut phantom energy loads by half or more.	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> September	Have your furnace professionally serviced; change filters monthly.	\$80
<input type="checkbox"/> October	Lower thermostat by at least 2°F during the day, 4°F overnight.	\$30-\$60
<input type="checkbox"/> November	Install and use a programmable thermostat.	\$60
<input type="checkbox"/> December	Weatherize your windows and doors	\$30

* These tasks were selected from energy-saving actions recommended by the Rocky Mountain Institute and ENERGY STAR, based on their effectiveness (cost, effort and expertise required, and potential for significant energy savings). Please note that the savings listed for each task are estimates based on national averages; individual household results will vary. And not every task is appropriate for every home.



Task of the Month was originally created by Dr. Stephanie Kimball for
Earth Care Bloomington
 an affiliate of Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light
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A Call To Generational Greatness

The effects of climate change, from coral reefs to arctic ice, can feel overwhelming. What difference could one person's actions have? Very little. But if each of us acts in our own lives, and spreads the word, we can make a difference. And while we are saving energy by not burning fossil-fuels in our homes, we are saving money, so it is a win/win for us and the planet.

Getting Started

The Task of the Month Program focuses on one action at a time to keep momentum going. You could upload each flier to your website and send a link with a note in your monthly newsletter.

To combat climate change we all need to do more, even if we think we've done everything we can! Encourage people to read the fliers for tips and more information.

Support for completing the tasks:

From the pulpit: Ask to present a task each month during your first monthly service. Be creative in how you present the tasks. Involve your youth. Draw names and offer prizes to those completing tasks. And use your newsletter and website to promote the program.

By your Green Team: Encourage the use of watt meters to help people identify appliances' energy use. Your congregation could purchase a few *Trickle Star* meters and loan them out for the week between the services.

From Utilities: Research what rebates or programs are available from your utility companies.

Home Energy Assessments: If your local utilities do not offer home energy assessments, assemble a few volunteers to run through the basics. Start with each other's homes and then hold a workshop for members.

Leak detection: Heating & cooling accounts for over 45% of a typical home's energy usage. Do many have less than of **foot of insulation in their attics** or have trouble keeping their homes comfortably warm in winter or cool in summer? If so, try to negotiate reduced-price home assessments with a thermal camera or a blower-door to help homeowners discover leaks and places that lack adequate insulation.

Celebrate your Community's Achievements!

Plan a celebration after the first nine or ten months, asking members to report their savings!



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