

# Energy Use and Carbon Footprint Survey

## Introduction

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In 2022, the 225<sup>th</sup> General Assembly passed overture ENV-05, calling upon the whole Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to reduce its carbon footprint by 25% in four years. As part of the overture, the General Assembly directed the Presbyterian Mission Agency to conduct a survey of PC(USA) buildings energy-use and carbon footprint. This survey is intended to provide a baseline understanding of PC(USA)'s overall energy use and will be repeated in 4 years.

You can read the overture here: <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000855>

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

To complete this survey, you will need information on your congregation's annual energy usage for electricity, heating, and other energy sources. This information can most easily be found on the congregations utility bills or through your energy companies online portal. If you can't find or don't have access to your congregation's energy use, you may instead enter your congregation's average monthly bill for each energy source. This survey should take 10 to 15 minutes to complete once you have gathered the necessary information.

If you need any technical assistance with the survey, please contact Sean Payne in PC(USA) Research Services at [sean.payne@pcusa.org](mailto:sean.payne@pcusa.org)

## Congregation and Facilities

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1. Is this form for a congregation, presbytery, or other organization? \*

- Congregation
- Presbytery
- Synod
- Other - Write In (Required)

2. What is the name and location of this congregation?

Select the state, city, church name with PIN, then the address. \*

If the address is not correct, please provide the correct address in the comment box.

Comments

3. What is the name of your organization? \*

4. What is your organization's address? \*

5. What best describes the role of the person completing this survey?

- Pastor
- Administrative staff
- Property, facilities, or buildings manager
- Clerk of Session
- Session Member
- Other - Write In (Required)

6. How many buildings are on your campus? \*

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6 or more

7. Can you track energy bills for your whole campus or only for the main building? \*

- Whole campus
- Main building only
- Other situation

8. Does your campus include a residence or other living quarters?\*

- Yes
- No

## Energy Use

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9. How do you heat your facilities? (select all that apply) \*

- Electric Heat
- Natural Gas
- Heating Oil
- Propane
- Geothermal
- Solar
- Other - Write In (Required)

\*

- Not applicable - We do not heat our buildings

For the following questions, you may enter either the total amount used last 12 months, the average monthly usage, or the average monthly cost. *Entering the total amount gives the most accurate estimate of energy use and is preferred.*

10. How much electricity do your facilities use? \*

Choose the format for your answer

- Kilowatt hours for the last 12 months (preferred)
- Average monthly kilowatt hours
- Average monthly electricity bill (in dollars)

Enter your data

11. How much natural gas do your facilities use? \*

Choose the format for your answer

- Natural gas used in the last 12 months (preferred)
- Average monthly natural gas use
- Average monthly natural gas bill (in dollars)

There are several common ways that natural gas use is measured by utility companies. Please select the unit that matches the one on your bill.

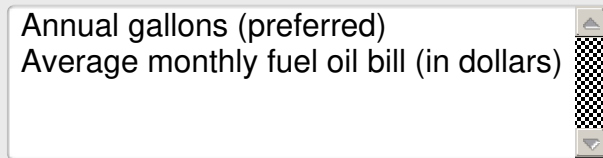
- Ccf
- Mcf
- Btu
- Therm
- MMBtu
- Other - Write In (Required)

Enter your data

12. How much fuel or heating oil do your facilities use? \*

Choose the format for your answer

Annual gallons (preferred)  
Average monthly fuel oil bill (in dollars)

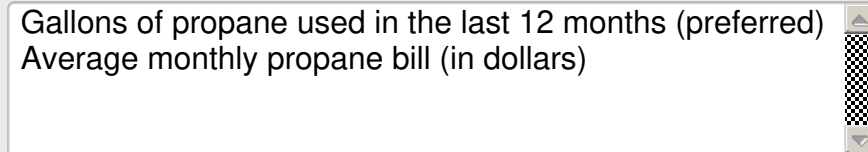
A dropdown menu with a checkered pattern on the right side. The first option is "Annual gallons (preferred)" and the second is "Average monthly fuel oil bill (in dollars)".

Enter your data

13. How much propane do your facilities use? \*

Choose the format for your answer

Gallons of propane used in the last 12 months (preferred)  
Average monthly propane bill (in dollars)

A dropdown menu with a checkered pattern on the right side. The first option is "Gallons of propane used in the last 12 months (preferred)" and the second is "Average monthly propane bill (in dollars)".

Enter your data

14. Do your facilities get any of their power from onsite solar panels?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

15. Do you currently purchase green power for your facility?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

16. What percentage of your power do you purchase from green sources?  
(Entering 100 would mean all of it)

 %

17. What percentage of your budget is spent on energy and heating costs?

 %

## Current Programs

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### What is a Carbon Footprint?

The vast majority of energy we use today is derived from the burning of fossil fuels—such as oil, natural gas, or coal. A carbon footprint, as commonly known, is simply the weight of carbon or carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere each year from the burning of fossil fuels. Other gases that contribute to climate change — such as methane from waste — are converted into "carbon equivalent" units then added to the carbon footprint.

You can engage your congregations by creating solid connections between your faith tradition and the Earth stewardship activities. Some of these activities take a lot of planning and resources, but some of them are easy to take on today. All of our choices contribute to the size of our overall carbon footprint.



18. Is your congregation *currently* taking steps to reduce it's carbon footprint?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

19. Briefly tell us what changes or programs has your congregation implemented to reduce it's carbon footprint?

20. Have you measured how much your energy efforts have reduced your carbon footprint?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

21. How much has it changed?

22. Here are 5 actions to reduce your carbon footprint that cost less than \$25. Which of these actions could your congregation incorporate? (select all that apply)

- Turn off the lights in unused rooms.
- Installing surge protectors for computers, copier, etc. and turning off your office equipment when you're not using it.
- Clean or replace air filters as recommended.
- Install low flow faucet aerators.
- Check the inflation in congregation vehicle tires to increase fuel efficiency.
- None of the above

23. Here are 5 actions to reduce your carbon footprint that cost more than \$25. Which of these actions could your congregation incorporate? (select all that apply)

- Replace incandescent exit signs with LED exit signs.
- Replace older refrigerator or dishwasher with ENERGY STAR models.
- Plant trees next to your building. Evergreens on the north and west to break cold winds, and deciduous trees on the south and west for cooling shade.
- Replace your standard electric hot water heater with an "on demand" hot water system.
- When ready, replace the congregation's car, bus, or van with a more efficient model.
- None of the above

24. Please tell us why you selected *None of the above* for both of the questions above.

### Congregation

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25. Is your congregation involved with any of the following? (select all that apply)

- Earth Care Congregations (PCUSA)
- Presbyterians for Earth Care
- Matthew 25 Congregation
- Red Latina
- Blessed Tomorrow
- Fossil Free PC(USA)
- Presbyterians for Carbon Dividends

26. Are you interested in receiving more information about any of the following?

(Select all that apply)

- Earth Care Congregations (PCUSA)
- Presbyterians for Earth Care
- Matthew 25 Congregation
- Red Latina
- Blessed Tomorrow
- Fossil Free PC(USA)
- Presbyterians for Carbon Dividends

Please enter your email where you would like to receive information

27. Which best describes the race/ethnicity of your congregation?

*(Select all that apply.)*

- Majority Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian
- Majority Black/African American/African
- Majority Hispanic/Latino-a
- Majority Middle Eastern/North African
- Majority Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous
- Majority White
- Multiracial

**Thank You!**

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Because you reported owning zero buildings, your answer has been recorded that there is no direct carbon footprint from property owned by your mid-council/congregation.

Thank you for completing the survey.

To explore additional actions, see Interfaith Power and Light's Start-Up Kit that includes "25 Steps Under \$25, and 25 Steps Over \$25" <https://interfaithpowerandlight.org/coolcongregations/start-up-kit/>