



## 10 Tips to Green your Parish

1. Use recycled or part-**recycled paper** for your parish bulletin. This is now possible, as the quality is now vastly improved so that brightness is improved; the products are approved for photocopiers while prices now are quite close to that of regular paper. Subtly advertise your move to recycle at the bottom of your newsletter.
2. Apply for **Greenpower**, which is electrical power from sustainable sources such as solar, wind and hydro. If you are not contracted at present, and agree to go on a contract with a supplier, there may not even be a cost for Greenpower. A small increase may apply in some cases. Once you are using at least 10% Greenpower you will be able to use the logo on your building, newsletter and letterhead. This will show your commitment to the environment. To find out more contact Church Resources or go to [www.greenpower.gov.au](http://www.greenpower.gov.au)
3. Replace your existing incandescent (standard) light bulbs with energy saving **compact fluorescent globes**. Make sure you trial the compact fluorescent globe for brightness as the light is different to that of incandescent globes.
4. **Turn your lights off** in the Church where possible. If you have your church open, then leaving all lights on may be a major energy use. It may not be necessary to have all lights on in many churches during daylight hours.
5. Replace security lights with **sensor lights**, where appropriate. This will continue to provide security, but may reduce light usage by 90%.
6. Consider the cars parish staff are driving. Cars are a major contributor to greenhouse emissions by churches. Converting to a hybrid such as a Toyota Prius is good PR, but ordinary **fuel-efficient vehicles** such as a Toyota Corolla, Nissan Tiida or Mitsubishi Lancer make a more cost-effective difference. Small diesels are worth examining, but are costly and cause more smog.
7. Undertake an **energy audit** to provide ideas for you to reduce your energy use. This may examine how you use energy, and suggest changes to reduce your energy use on an ongoing basis such as fitting reflectors to fluorescent lights and master switches to easily turn off all lighting and air-conditioning.
8. Turn the **air-conditioner off** when it's not needed. Open the window and let the fresh air in, especially during the milder months of the year, from March to May, and from September to November. If you are in a permanently air-conditioned building, **use your blinds** to reduce the effect of morning and afternoon sun on your windows. These measures could reduce your air-conditioning bill by half.

9. **Turn off computers** overnight. This not only saves up to 10% of a church's energy bill, it makes your computers less open to infiltration by viruses.
10. **Recycle** everything possible. This may mean using recycling bins around the Church and also within the Church Office and Presbytery. The easiest way is to have a separate recycling bin under each desk and in the Church foyer.

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