

## Cool Congregations Converts



By employing common energy saving measures available to homeowners today, the Barclays cut their home heating fuel use by 31% and electricity use by 15%, saving \$524 in one year and preventing 7,500 pounds of carbon dioxide.

### Climate Change Education at Church Motivating Factor

Connie Barclay has always been interested in environmental issues but was really stunned when she viewed a series of documentaries on climate change at a study group at her church, First Lutheran in Decorah. Then she attended a Cool Congregations meeting.

Inspired by the workshop, she made a commitment to cut her family's personal energy use, encourage our elected representatives to take action, and work with her church to educate the members.

Connie feels, "We each need to be responsible for our impact on the world and we can't just wait for governments to act. It is up to us as individuals, churches, businesses, and organizations to take climate change seriously and work hard at reducing the impact we have on the rest of the world."

### Common Energy Saving Steps

The Barclays made a combination of behavioral changes and some bigger investments:

- Cut phantom load by using power strips to switch off small appliances when not in use.
- Use the washer and dryer less, line dry clothes in summer, and wash in cold water.
- Installed more energy efficient heating/air conditioning system and a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust the temperature.

Their success has inspired them to make further changes - recently replacing six windows, a door, adding a storm door and insulating the lower level of their house with blow in foam - taking advantage of utility rebates. Connie says, "It's not at all about feeling deprived-we don't at all! It just a different way of doing things, of learning a little bit more each day."



Cool Congregations is a program of Iowa Interfaith Power & Light. [www.iowaipl.org](http://www.iowaipl.org) For more information contact [programs@iowaipl.org](mailto:programs@iowaipl.org)