Power Wise Energy Efficiency Matching Grant
Frequently Asked Questions

Georgia Interfaith Power & Light (GIPL) is pleased to offer Power Wise Energy Efficiency Matching Grants to help member congregations pursue energy efficiency. Matching Grants are made possible through the support of The Kendeda Fund.

There is only one Power Wise Matching Grant cycle each year. Applications are due November 15th of each year. Decisions will be made within six weeks of the application deadline. Power Wise Matching Grant applications must either be submitted online through the form provided, either online, or by mail to the GIPL office.

Matching Grant Requirements

Power Wise Energy Efficiency Matching Grants are available for amounts up to $10,000. Recipients are required to make an equal match of money received. For example, a congregation that receives a Matching Grant of $5,000 must contribute $5,000 to the cost of the improvement.

Sources of matching funds might include creation care funds, capital improvement funds, building funds, tithes, loans or in-kind services. Matching funds can be raised before or after the application, but they must be in place within six months of the Grant Award. Congregations are also required to provide proof in their application that they will be able to make a one-for-one match of the total grant amount.

All Matching Grant funds must be used for the authorized project(s) within one year of the grant award. Recipients will also submit a follow-up report one year after the project(s) are completed. This should include a financial accounting of the grant, initial results of the work, and any creation care commitments or outreach programs completed by your congregation.

Qualified Projects

Any congregation or faith-based community (including faith-based schools) that have received a Power Wise Energy Audit through Georgia Interfaith Power & Light is eligible to apply for a Matching Grant. Congregations are encouraged to apply for funds to implement the Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) suggested in their Energy Audit Reports.

Please note that any request deviating from the Energy Conservation Measures (ECM) listed in your Power Wise Energy Audit must be justified with specific, detailed information comparable to the ECM relating to annual energy and dollar savings, implementation costs, and payback.

In general, applications that demonstrate greater energy savings for the money requested will be favored. We also suggest that congregations pursue low-cost, quick payback improvements initially. Completed projects will only be funded if they were recommended in the congregation's
Power Wise Energy Audit Report and were completed within the one-year preceding the application date.

Energy Conservation Measures eligible for Matching Grants may include, but are not limited to:

- Lighting Upgrades: Replacing incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents (CFL), cold cathode, metal halide, or light-emitting diode (LED) lamps; replacing or retrofitting exit signs with LED equivalents; or retrofitting T-12 or T-8 fluorescent light fixtures with LED fixtures.
- Energy Management Systems: Installing motion or light detectors on light switches, programmable thermostats, or direct digital controls.
- Equipment Upgrades: Purchasing energy efficient equipment, including, in some cases, Energy Star® kitchen appliances and office equipment.
- You can also apply for a Matching Grant to fund the difference between a low efficiency (SEER 13) and the new high efficiency (SEER 15) HVAC system, but GIPL does not fund HVAC system replacements.
- Insulation Improvements: Sealing ducts, adding or increasing insulation, or sealing leaks in the building envelope.

Higher cost, slower payback improvements may also qualify for funding as long as the need and benefit of such improvements can be demonstrated. Such improvements may include, but are not limited to:

- Upgrading windows and doors
- Installing solar powered appliances such as solar hot water heaters. A Solar Loan Fund is available for installing photovoltaic panels and solar water heaters that replace electric water heaters. For more information, contact Codi Norred at codi@gipl.org or visit GIPL’s website.
- Selected green building measures in new construction that increase energy efficiency

Grants cannot be used to pay down a loan or interest on a loan.

Criteria for Judging Applications

Applications will be judged and scored by the following criteria:

- Projected energy savings
- Congregation's ability to financially support the project
- Evidence of congregational involvement and dedication to sustainability and care for the environment as a core faith tenant
GIPL’s Power Wise Grant Committee determines grant awards. Committee members with any financial connection or other affiliation with any applicant will abstain from considering that particular application.

To apply for a Power Wise Energy Efficiency Matching Grant, please fill out and submit the Matching Grant Application, which is on our website at www.gipl.org.

If you have any questions, please contact us at info@gipl.org.