

[EnerChange](#)

If your faith community is looking to invest in wide ranging energy cost savings measures, reach out to EnerChange. They are focused on nonprofits, including the church nonprofit sector, and there is no cost.

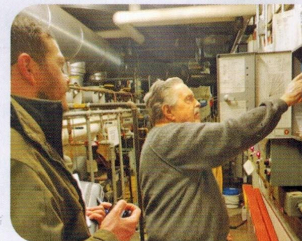
Having their report in hand can help ground larger discussions around how to approach long-term planning for climate impact and reducing operational cost including a building masterplan. It can be a valuable catalyst.

St. David's Episcopal Church's energy assessment nets immediate results

Residents aren't the only ones who can benefit from energy assessments. This winter, Minnetonka city staff contacted St. David's Episcopal Church to discuss energy savings. The city connected the church to EnerChange, a non-profit on a mission to help other non-profits identify energy savings.



"Everyone was really easy to work with and very helpful," said Randy Schwichteneerg of St. David's building and grounds committee. "[The energy assessment] helped us identify things we were already doing well and a couple opportunities that we can do better."



Through the assessment EnerChange identified that St. David's was paying taxes on energy bills as a tax-exempt organization. The church will be reimbursed nearly \$3,000 over the next three years.

Schwichteneerg recommends other organizations participate in an energy assessment from EnerChange. "Anything we can do to help our energy use also helps the environment, and it keeps our costs down," Schwichteneerg said.

For more information about EnerChange visit enerchange.org, or contact us at minnetonkamn.gov/green

[Solar United Neighbors](#)

This nonprofit organization advocates for increased solar energy and helps nonprofits access programs that benefit them. See this page for the nonprofit specific programs: [Solar for Nonprofits](#).

[Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 \(IRA\)](#)

Entities that don't pay taxes (churches, schools, and charities) have been unable to benefit from solar tax credits. The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, tax-exempt organizations will be able to benefit from federal solar incentives through a new "direct pay" option. This applies to solar systems installed in

2023 through 2034. It allows nonprofit organizations, private nonprofit and public schools, faith-based organizations, local and state governments, tribal governments, and rural electric cooperatives to receive cash payments in lieu of tax deductions. Learn more on our [Solar for Nonprofits page](#) and in the [IRS Direct Pay guidance](#).