



Frequently Asked Question

For Participating Places of Worship

About Program Implementation

Are you asking that all lights in the building be turned off?

No. Only those lights you would consider to be non-essential. For example, during services, you will still need to have some lights to read. Halls may need some natural light for safety. But buildings typically find that at least some lighting can be turned down, especially where there is natural lighting.

How long do we need to have the lights off?

We ask that you turn down lights for at least the length your morning service.

Is the LightsOut program only for morning services?

No. At your option, you can turn off lights in other areas of the building as well, such as classrooms, offices, social halls and well lit hallways.

What about conserving energy used in other applications such as computers?

We encourage you to find as many ways to conserve energy and use it more efficiently as is practical.

Are there other activities where our members can get a broader understanding of the environmental impact of their actions?

ABSOLUTELY! We will be providing you with optional handouts which will give your members energy saving tips.

What can we do to encourage members to spread the word about conserving energy?

- Make copies and distribute handouts, encouraging members to turn off non-essential lights on Earth Day (April 22nd) and all other days.
- Ask your members to encourage Earth Day activities like LightsOut at their workplace and schools.
- Encourage them to spread the word through their neighborhood. Printable electronic versions of the flyer can be found at LightsOutOhio.org.

About Environmental Impact

Does turning off lights for one hour really have a positive environmental impact?

Yes and No. LightsOut shows participants how easily they can contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gases by making minor, simple modifications in their long-term behavior. It's an easy step to journey to make conscious energy-saving choices in their daily lives. We all need to realize that our personal actions impact the Earth's environment and that we all have a personal responsibility to protect the Earth for future generations.

If everyone turns their lights back on at the same time, won't it cause a power surge that could create power outages? No. Our electric utilities have to deal with occasional power outages in which electric usage jumps back on in large spurts. Plus, we are not asking that all electric usage ceases for a period of time, and then be turned back on. We ask that people curtail a portion of their electrical usage – the non-essential portion.

About the LightsOut Organization

Who runs the LightsOut program? LightsOut Ohio was established and is run by the volunteers of the local Sierra Club groups in Northeast Ohio. The event is primarily organized by Sierra Club's Akron area group, the Portage Trail Group.