

PRESS RELEASE
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Faith Communities Environmental Network (FCEN) Receives an Educational Grant to Promote Energy Efficiency in EJ Communities

Barnstable and Falmouth, Mass. The Faith Communities Environmental Network (FCEN), representing 35 faith institutions from diverse religious traditions across Cape Cod, has received an educational grant from MassSave sponsors Cape Light Compact and National Grid to promote energy efficiency in environmental justice communities in the towns of Falmouth and Barnstable.

The grant-funded program, entitled Energy Cafe: An Environmental Justice Initiative, is designed to help individuals and families, ***whether they rent or own their home***, to access a no-cost energy efficiency assessment and other energy-related services. The program aims to help ratepayers cope with rising energy prices by reducing their energy usage while improving the comfort in their home.

The program also provides information to help Income Eligible ratepayers apply for a discount on their energy bills, and receive other energy-related, cost-saving services.

Susan Starkey, Co-Chair of FCEN says, “With winter upon us and energy prices skyrocketing, the need to get the word out is urgent. FCEN has long aspired to engage with our neighbors on Cape Cod with challenging economic circumstances, or people with cultural or language barriers that have prevented them from accessing the services. This program is a step forward in promoting energy equity, and assisting households that can greatly benefit.”

Key to the program’s success will be a corps of volunteers from faith communities to serve as trusted messengers. Over coffee and refreshments, these “Energy Ambassadors” will share information about the available programs, and help sign up participants. Time commitment from volunteers is approximately 10-12 hours total during the outreach period, from December 2022 to May 2023. Fluency in Spanish or Portuguese is a plus.

In January, 2023, Unitarian Church of Barnstable, Unity Church in Barnstable, Waquoit Congregational Church and Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Falmouth, among others, will host Energy Cafes after a weekly service. Announcements will be shared in the congregations’ newsletters and on community calendars. Additional congregations and volunteers are welcome to participate. For more information, please email FCEN Energy Cafe Director, Rosemary Carey at rosemary@copyrose.com with “Energy Cafe” in the subject line.

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