

Repower Australia!

AUSTRALIA IS ONE OF THE **SUNNIEST** AND **WINDIEST** COUNTRIES ON EARTH.
IT IS POSSIBLE FOR US TO BE POWERED BY **100% RENEWABLE ENERGY!**

Repower Worship: A guide to repowering your place of worship

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Repower Australia!



The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) is pleased to join with the Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC) to present Repower Worship, part of the AYCC's Repower Australia campaign.



About AYCC

The Australian Youth Climate Coalition's mission is to build a generation-wide movement to solve the climate crisis, through uniting diverse youth organisations around this common challenge. The AYCC is entirely youth-run, representing more than 30 of Australia's largest youth organisations and over 70,000 individual members.

About Repower Australia

Repower Australia is the AYCC's exciting new campaign to create a future where Australia is powered by safe renewable energy sources like the wind and the sun, not polluting fossil fuels like coal, gas and oil that cause climate change. It aims to build community support for renewable energy, influence politicians to secure \$10 billion for 100% renewable energy in 2012, and to start transforming our communities.

Across the country local groups of young people are going out into their communities to build support for renewable energy. They are taking the Repower Australia petition to the streets, talking with people in their area about renewable energy and climate change, so more people are ready to support 100% renewable energy for Australia.

In addition, we're hoping to see Repower events all over the country. Repower events are fundraisers held at local businesses or organisations, where the money raised goes towards repowering that venue with renewables.

About ARRCC

The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change brings together representatives from all major faith traditions to work together in addressing climate change. We recognise that climate change is not only a scientific, environmental, economic and political issue, but also a profoundly moral and spiritual one. While celebrating the uniqueness of our different traditions, we stand together in working for an ecologically and socially sustainable future.

About Repower Worship

We have a responsibility to care for our planet, and our religious and spiritual practices can have an impact. Repower Worship aims to lighten the ecological footprint of faith communities by assisting them to reduce the emissions of their place of worship. It also aims to extend AYCC's Repower Australia campaign into another segment of society – people of faith.

Through Repower Worship, people of faith will run events that will raise money to switch their place of worship to renewables and reduce their emissions. With events all over Australia, Repower Worship will repower Australia one faith community at a time. A percentage of the money raised can also go to training other people to hold Repower Events, so that we build a greater movement for change.

Introduction cont'd

Introduction

A large amount of the pollution causing climate change in Australia comes from the energy we use. Burning coal, gas and oil to create electricity and power our homes is contributing to the climate crisis. Australia is one of the sunniest and windiest countries on earth. We can be powered by 100% renewable energy and minimise our contribution to climate change.

The most powerful thing we can do right now is to demonstrate to our politicians that we're ready for change and we're not going to wait for them - we're getting on with it ourselves!

Holding a Repower Worship event can begin this transformation in your community. It can create huge social and political change! A Repower Worship event is a fundraiser that raises money to switch your place of worship to renewable energy. Just imagine the impact on your area's politician and the thousands who read about your Repower Worship event in the local paper, after you've successfully switched your place of worship to renewable energy.

And it's not just about politics - a Repower event is also the best way to engage our communities and build support with people who might not have been involved with the issue or who have become disillusioned with the current political climate. It can be very disempowering to see the level of debate stoop so low - many people are turning off. So we want to re-engage them by organising events that they want to come to, and showing them how their actions can have a direct effect on their community and reduce emissions.

Running your own Repower Worship event in your faith community will actually reduce emissions, unite the community, have an impact politically, demonstrate to the community the benefits of renewable energy, demonstrate community support for renewable energy and start transitioning Australia towards a future powered by 100% renewables.

ARRCC believes that the issue of climate change can't be separated from how we relate to each other, the natural world and to God or the Divine. As people of faith, to acknowledge the spark of divinity in people and the natural world is to respect and care for both.

There is a sound theological basis for this in all the world's major religions, and a growing number of statements by various religious leaders, but the message still does not seem to have been integrated into the culture of most faith communities. The challenge remains for more places of worship to incorporate caring for the environment into their religious and spiritual practice.

This requires some people in the community to make it a priority to inspire their community to become engaged with this increasingly urgent aspect of our mission – this is where you come in!

By getting together a small core of people in your faith community and leading the transition to renewable energy, you'll help spread the message that taking action to address climate change is intrinsically linked with your faith. You will also encourage and inspire people to get involved in solving the climate crisis and you will demonstrate to your local community that your place of worship takes its role as a steward of the Earth seriously.

This guide will provide you with all the information and tools to Repower your place of worship and to engage your whole faith community in the process.

Steps to Repowering your place of worship

- 1.** Form a team: Get a group of passionate and committed people together to help organise your Repower Worship event.
- 2.** Set your goals: Decide what you want to achieve through your event – how much you want to raise, and what you can do with the funds. Be realistic about what is possible in your faith community.
- 3.** Confirm your venue: Confirm that your faith community leaders are on board with the idea and that it's feasible to Repower your place of worship (otherwise you could choose another venue in the community). Discuss, with your leaders, how you'd best like to spend the money raised to Repower your place of worship (this is detailed further on in the guide).
- 4.** Plan your event: Work out the best time and date for your event, and what needs to be done to make it happen. Make a detailed task list and delegate specific tasks to your team members.
- 5.** Promote your event: Get the word out about your event in your faith community and the broader neighbourhood. Don't forget to let your politicians and the media know about it!
- 6.** Hold the event: Start with an overview of what Repower Worship is and why it's important. Carry out your planned fundraiser and ensure that attendees sign your Repower petitions. Afterwards, be sure to let everyone know how it went, including the media!

7. Repower your place of worship: depending upon what you agreed at step 3, you could use the money to purchase, install solar panels or retrofitting your buildings.

8. Repower your whole faith community: Once your place of worship is Repowered, encourage your whole faith of community to get on board too!

Helping you run Repower Worship

By now you're probably keen to get started running Repower Worship at your local place of worship. ARRCC and the AYCC are here to make it as easy and possible for you! Once you decide to run a Repower Worship event we'll provide all the help and support you'll need, including:

- a mentor to help with developing and running your Repower campaign
- resources for running Repower Worship (petition sheets, how-to guides, templates and more)
- training for you and your group to run a Repower Worship event

Register your interest now at:

<http://repower.aycc.org.au/events>
and we'll be in touch shortly to help you Repower your place of worship!

Step 1: Build your team

1. Find your core team

For a faith community to journey on a path to sustainability, it is really important that there is a team of people committed to driving the process. One committed individual is all it takes to get started, but it's not always easy for one person to press on by themselves! It's amazing what a small group of inspired people can achieve!

There may already be an existing team in your faith community that is ready to take on the role of organising Repower Worship, or you might need to identify people to get involved. You could ask your faith community leaders to make an announcement inviting people, or place a notice in the newsletter if you can't think of anyone.

2. Hold your first meeting

Make sure your first meeting is fun, friendly and full of purpose. It's a chance for everyone to get to know each other, introduce them to the campaign, and brainstorm. The strongest teams are those that actually do things - so don't just talk, start planning! If you're running the meeting, make sure you:

- Start the meeting with a prayer or meditation
- Determine what outcomes you want from the meeting - one of them should be planning what your first Repower activity will be
- Spend a small amount of time going over the issue of renewable energy, working out what you as a group know and what questions you have.
- Brainstorm ideas for your event. You might want to organise a dinner with an auction, a trivia night, a move night, or a walk/ride-athon

- Decide how to approach your place of worship - who is the best person, are they already on board, etc.

Try to remember to incorporate some time of prayer/meditation into each meeting. This can help you to centre yourselves, to focus on the task of caring for the Earth, to give thanks for the progress you are making, and to clarify the next steps for Repowering your religious centre.

After your first meeting, you should start holding them regularly so you can make all your ideas from the first meeting happen!

3. Book in your training

Also make sure you email our support team to book in a free leadership training for your group. We can help with skills in event organising, strategy, meeting facilitation, group building, climate science and more. Training is a great way to strengthen connections and skills in a group, which is particularly important before your Repower Worship event. Simply send an email to repower@arrcc.org.au

Remember the Golden Rule!

Work out what you're trying to achieve. The best teams have a clear purpose and direction - so from the very start, focus on exactly what your goals are.

Step 2: Set your goals

Setting goals is crucial to running a good event. Your group could set out to organise an event without talking about goals, but you wouldn't know specifically why you're doing it, some people might have different focuses, and you could forget an important aspect of the campaign. Setting goals for your Repower Worship event is really important to keep you on track.

It's important to set SMART goals, that is, goals which are:

- Specific: make the goal clear so you know what you are aiming to do
- Measurable: put numbers around the goal so you know if you've achieved it
- Achievable: make sure that your goal is ambitious but realistic with your resources so you're doing something within your reach
- Resourced: make sure you've got the resources (time, people, skills) to achieve your goal
- Time-bound: put deadlines on every goal so you stick to them.

1. Set your overall goals for Repower Worship

When setting goals for Repower Worship, you need to focus on goals you can measure, eg:

- Number of people who come to the Repower Worship event
- Amount raised for Repowering the venue
- Number of local media stories
- Number of people coming to political actions after the Repower event

Build connection

People stay involved because they feel a meaningful connection to others in the group. This means social events are really, really important!

Celebrate!

Take time to debrief and celebrate after activities and milestones

Reach out

Constantly create opportunities for other people to get involved - you want your group to be getting bigger and better every week!

Understand your team members

Be aware that everyone will contribute differently

Setting Goals

When setting goals for Repower, we need to focus on goals that we can measure, for example:

- Number of conversations and petition signatures for 100% renewable energy
- Number of people who come to the Repower event
- Dollars raised for Repowering the venue and building the youth climate movement
- Number of local media stories
- Number of people coming to political actions after the Repower event
- Number of regular volunteers in your group
- 100 people attending the Trivia night Repower Event on 6 May 2012
- \$8000 raised through the Trivia night Repower Event on 6 May 2012
- 2 local media stories for 100% renewable energy by 20 May 2012
- Switched to Greenpower by 30 June 2012
- Solar panels installed by 31 December 2012

Step 3: Confirm the venue

1. Approach your place of worship

To begin with, you need to get agreement from the leader(s) of your faith community to hold Repower Worship. The first thing to do is to meet with them to see if they will support the campaign.

You'll need to present your vision and ideas, and how you are thinking of organising the event, including possible timeframes.

Examples of messages:

- “This is a way for us to respond practically to our call to care for the Earth... ”
 - “This is a way that we can make a difference to the welfare of the poor and future generations... ”
 - “This gives us a chance to show that our faith community cares about sustainability and renewable energy...”
 - “Repower offers us an opportunity to reach out to the community, by showing that we care about the future of the planet ...”
- You may need to take your proposal to a committee, parish council, etc. to be confirmed.

If it's not feasible to Repower your place of worship, you could choose another community building, such as a school, community centre, childcare centre or even a local café – anywhere that the community gathers!

2. Decide on your Repower Options

Once you are confident the place of worship is on board, organize a follow-up meeting with them to go over the campaign in more detail, particularly how you'll Repower your place of worship.

The Repower steps are:

1. Switch to GreenPower
 2. Complete an energy audit
- Then use the remaining money to:
3. Purchase solar panels for a building, and/or
 4. Retrofit

These are discussed in detail over the page. It's a good idea to discuss all the options and decide which are most compatible with the chosen venue. You might choose to focus on a particular building, such as the central church/temple/mosque, or to focus on a school, presbytery or residence of faith community leaders.

You should also investigate what grants and rebates are available to help your place of worship meet the costs of making changes. AYCC and ARRCC can help you find suitable programs – just contact your mentor!

3. Confirm your Repower plan

Given that running a Repower event involves raising money and requires concrete actions to be taken, it is important to write down your plan, outlining the details and aims of the event and what will be done with the money. Give a copy to the leaders of your faith community so they can refer back to it.

GreenPower

GreenPower is electricity that is generated from renewable energy sources. When a householder chooses GreenPower, their electricity continues to come from the normal electricity grid, but the energy supplier must ensure that an equal amount of renewable energy is fed into the grid.

When your place of worship switches to GreenPower, it will pay a little extra each month for each unit of electricity, and that money will be used to increase the amount of renewable energy being generated and fed into the power grid.

How much does it cost?

The cost of GreenPower varies depending on the provider and the product you purchase, but it is usually 5-8c more per kilowatt-hour (kWh). The absolute figure will vary depending upon the building type and how it is used. The great news is that the extra cost is dropping as renewable energy becomes cheaper.

But don't be deterred by the cost! You are doing something great for the environment, and you can eliminate the extra cost by reducing the electricity used at your place of worship.

Energy Audit

An energy audit will help your place of worship to identify where it can save energy, by determining a number of strategies you can implement. These might be as simple as turning off the lights, heating and urns when not in use, making use of blinds or shades to prevent your building from heating up on hot days, or changing your light bulbs over to energy efficient bulbs. Depending on the age of make of the building, it will likely also include suggestions for retrofitting your place of worship

through such things as wall and ceiling insulation, double glazing or upgrading appliances to energy efficient models.

How much does it cost?

There are free online guides to enable you to conduct your own energy audit, and many local councils will assist with audits. You can also pay a professional to come and complete the audit – this could be a good way to go if you are planning to raise a large amount of money to Repower your place of worship. Costs can range from \$30 - \$3000 so it's best to find a Government subsidised program if you can. See Step 7 for a list of ideas.

Solar Panels

Small-scale solar panels on houses, businesses and community buildings are a well-known and visible way to reduce emissions. If you're looking to run an ambitious fundraiser which has a positive, visible, and lasting impact, panels could be for you.

They're pretty pricey however, and a couple of thousand dollars might only be enough to partially power a building. Although they're a big upfront investment, over time solar panels that connect to the electricity grid will eventually earn enough to cover the installation price (the time this takes is called the payback time), and after that the building has an ongoing source of free electricity. If you can install enough of them, solar panels could actually make money!

How much does it cost?

The cost of systems varies from supplier to supplier and depends on where you are located. In addition, there are a number of rebates and subsidies that your place of worship may be eligible for which will reduce the cost. Generally, a small organisation can get about 40% of the upfront cost back immediately through a national scheme called Small-scale Technology Certificates, or STCs. For information on all rebates, we recommend the Clean Energy Council website.

Retrofitting

Retrofitting is the substitution of modern and energy-efficient technologies for outdated, more wasteful ones. It can include making changes to: lighting, office equipment, heating and air-conditioning, refrigeration, hot water systems, and kitchen equipment.

If solar panels are a bit pricey, you can still improve your place of worship's physical infrastructure through retrofitting. Improving energy efficiency, when done comprehensively, is the most effective way to reduce carbon pollution. It can also save your place of worship thousands of dollars each year in electricity bills.

How much does it cost?

Depending on what you decide to change, retrofitting could cost you from a few hundred dollars to a few thousand – the more you invest, the more energy you will save and the lower your place of worship's emissions will be.

Step 4: Plan your event

1. Choose your event

It's time to get the details of your upcoming Repower Event organised. This is the logistics part of event organising. You will have already started talking about ideas at your first meeting. Now is the time to firm up the details. The main purpose of the event is to fundraise, so make sure you have some strategies to make money. Also consider whether you will just target people from your faith community, or whether you will try and get the whole local community involved

2. Choose a date

You'll need to choose a date and time that suits your target audience and the type of event you're organising. Come up with a number of possible dates and take these to the leaders of your faith community to check that they suit the venue. Also do a bit of research to make sure that there are no other major events happening in your area on your chosen date that might compete with your event.

3. Plan the logistics

When organising the logistics for your Repower Event, it is really important to have a working timeline and plan. You might do this on paper, on a computer spreadsheet, in a Word document, or in any other project management tool. You can also use the Repower Australia Event Planner template - on the repower.aycc.org.au website. Throughout the whole timeline, it is important to keep track of every task, who has committed to taking it on, and when it needs to be done by. This will help keep your group members accountable. You can see an example of this timelining and planning in the Appendix of Repower Australia's Event Organising guide on the Repower website (see link above).

4. Set sub-goals to achieve along the way

While your overall goals are the end-point you are aiming to reach (eg. holding a repower event with 200 attendees), sub-goals are the check-points that you need to meet along the way (eg. selling 200 tickets to your Repower event). Set some SMART goals for each step along the way, so you know how you are tracking and can celebrate successes as you go.

5. Allocate tasks

Key to getting the logistics of your event organised is delegating, which means working with your team to do everything, not just having one person organise the whole event.

Checklist:

- Where are we holding our event?
- Do we have a money taking system/float?
- Do we need security?
- Do we need volunteers on duty? How many? Who are they?
- Do we need/have an MC? Who is it?
- Do we need to rent any materials or equipment? Where do we get these from?
- Have we got contingency plans for weather/other disasters?
- Where are we getting food and drinks? How are we serving/selling them?
- There are more questions, but this is a rough idea.

Step 5: Promote your event

To increase the impact of your Repower Worship event it is critical to get as many people to attend as possible. Imagine organising the venue, activities on the night and media for your first Repower Event, but only a few people turn-up, most of them involved in organising the event. This is what happens if we forget to do promotions for events.

By widely and actively promoting your Repower Event your group will get increased visibility in public, more petitions collected if you use this as a tool to have conversations about Repower, new volunteers coming onboard to help, and a well-attended and successful Repower Event – so read below for how to ace promotions.

1. Work out who you want to come

The first step to getting lots of people along to your event is to think about who your audience is and how you can reach them. With you group, spend ten minutes brainstorming two lists like in the table below. Make sure it's really thorough. These are the tactics to get people along to events.

Who	How
Family/friends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face-to-face conversations • Phone calls • Emailing/texts • Social networking sites
Members of faith community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcement by religious leader • Presentation at a religious activity/service • Notice in newsletter/ bulletin • Posters / flyers
School children and parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School talks • Notice in newsletter • Contacting social justice / environmental groups
General public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article in local paper • Posters in shop windows • Local radio announcement
Politician	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printed invite • Follow up phone call

2. Develop a promotions plan

To develop an excellent promotions plan to get lots of people along to your Repower event you will need to:

1. Set goals for the number of people reached
2. Choose tactics with high return (eg. face-to-face conversations)
3. Choose tactics which are low effort (eg. notices in newsletters)
4. Put achievable numbers around each of the tactics (eg. call 10 friends, speak at 4 services)
5. Estimate how many people you will get by adding all of those tactics together
6. Add extra tactics that are as low effort or high return as possible.

Then turn this into a timeline.

How to engage your faith community

If you are planning to Repower your place of worship, you'll want to get everyone on board. Encourage your religious leader to speak or preach about climate change, then have someone from your group get up and give a short presentation on Repower Worship.

You may also want to print up small flyers that people can take home and put on their fridge. You could have volunteers handing out the flyers at the end of the religious activity or service, trying to engage people in conversations about Repower Worship. Also include details in your place of worship's newsletter or bulletin in the weeks leading up to the event as a reminder.

You need to ensure that you give people enough time to plan to attend. The earlier you can get the date in their diaries the more chance people will be able to come. Similarly, the more often they read/hear about it in the weeks leading up, the more top-of-mind it will be.

How to have conversations about Repower

Statistical evidence shows that conversations with friends or people outside your networks are much more successful than any other promotion tactic. A simple face-to-face conversation builds connection between you and who you're talking with, allows you to explain further what you're doing, and is a sure way to commit someone to coming along.

We call this type of conversation an 'intentional conversation' because you are intentionally having a conversation that is trying to move someone to action – in this case, to attend your Repower Worship event.

Conversations motivate people to act - people general won't get involved unless asked. But sometimes having conversations about climate change can be difficult – especially if you're not sure whether people will be receptive.

Here are some key points for having an intentional conversation:

- **Personal connections:** make sure you establish personal connection with the person – it's the best way to move them to action! Smile, be friendly, tell them about yourself.
- **Use open body language:** have a relaxed stance and make eye contact. Don't slouch, frown or cross your arms because it puts people off.
- **Understand what motivates them:** everyone is different. Ask questions to understand where the person is coming from.
- **Appeal to values:** most people hold values like responsibility, caring for your family, valuing future opportunities, hope for the future – use values in the way you talk about climate change and Repower to connect this with what people already care about.

How to have conversations about Repower ctd.

- Use emotions: people aren't just motivated by hard facts, talking about how climate change makes you feel, hope for the future and why you care can be useful in showing people why climate change is important and they should be part of the solution by coming to your Repower Event.
- Take your time: to ask questions, chat, and generally get to know the person you're talking to.

Engaging the media and politicians

Your Repower Worship event is a great opportunity to engage with local media and politicians: it's a community event and on their home turf. Politicians are always looking out for community events to go along to, and the media love to write about what's happening locally.

Media

Engaging local and religious media magnifies the impact of your event by making sure as many people as possible hear about the transformation happening in their community. You can also use media to promote your event.

You should aim to get into the local papers and religious media in the lead up to your event, directly after your event and once you've Repowered your place of worship.

You do this by preparing media releases and sending them along with good quality photos to the editor of your local newspaper(s). A more detailed guide is available on the repowerer.aycc.org.au website to help with this, and the AYCC and ARRCC will also provide help with writing up your media releases.

Politicians

Politicians are great to engage with Repower Events because, if they come along, we can clearly show them how their community can be transformed. They get a sense of the value of renewable energy and the benefits of cutting pollution. It's the kind of thing that puts pressure on them to do more.

You have political representatives at the local, state and federal level. Politicians at all levels can play a role in moving towards a renewable energy future, so it makes sense to engage them all. However federal politicians have the biggest role to play in moving towards 100% renewable energy, so you should place extra attention on them. Start by writing a formal invitation letter and sending it to the local office of each politician. A few days later follow up with a phone call to confirm they received the invitation and emphasise how much you want them to attend. Ask them by when you can expect a response. Make sure you follow them up at this point if you haven't heard from them.

Again, a more detailed guide on the repowerer.aycc.org.au website contains information to help you engage your politicians.

Step 6: Hold your event

Based on our experience, we suggest starting your event with the following:

1. In the fortnight leading up to the event

- Do last minute promotions and include reminders in newsletters, bulletins, emails, etc.
- Send your pre-event media release to your local newspaper and any appropriate religious media.

2. Before the event starts

- Have volunteers arrive early to setup the venue.
- Before people begin arriving, confirm the run sheet and each person's tasks.

3. At the beginning of the event

- Have volunteers welcoming attendees – having conversations with attendees, telling them about how they can get involved.
- Invite the leaders of the place of worship to begin the formalities by welcoming everyone and explaining why they decided to be involved. They may like to lead everyone in a prayer or meditation appropriate to your tradition. If they're not confident of all the details, you could take over, explaining the purpose of this event and what it will achieve.
- Follow this with a short presentation on climate change, why it is an issue and how it relates to your faith. This will get everyone understanding why Repower Worship is important. Personal stories are great at communicating this, and AYCC and ARRCC have fantastic resources you can use.

- Finish with a speech explaining Repower and the theory behind the campaign so that someone completely new to the campaign can understand it (an example speech is available on the repower.aycc.org.au website).

4. During the event

- Incorporate as many ways as possible for people to donate money.
- Ensure you have copies of the petition for people to sign.
- Take photos of the event – try to get a couple that capture how many people attended for the local newspaper.

5. At the end of the event

- Thank everyone for coming
- If possible, give an indication of the amount of money raised.
- Let everyone know your rough timeframes for implementing your Repower options so they can keep track of the progress.

6. After the event

- Write up how your event went and send it, with a photo, to your local media outlets, religious media and your politicians' offices.
- Put information about how the event went and next steps in your place of worship's newsletter or bulletin.

Now you're ready to begin implementing your Repower options!

Step 7: Repower your place of worship

1. Switch to GreenPower

To switch to GreenPower, go to the Australian government GreenPower website for a complete list of all GreenPower providers in Australia. This site provides links to all providers. Things to consider when making your choice include the environmental credentials of the product and the price. Green Electricity Watch is an independent resource that can help you choose the best Green Power provider for you. Once you have decided which provider you wish to go with, simply give them a call. Make sure you have your most recent power bill handy. When you have made the switch, get the GreenPower logo so that you can proudly display it at your place of worship and demonstrate to your broader community that you care about the environment.

2. Do an Energy Audit

As a first port of call, we recommend that you contact your local council to see if they can provide assistance with an energy audit. Ask to speak to your council's environment or sustainability officer. If your local council can't help, sometimes your State Government can. Alternatively, you can do an energy audit yourself, making use of a range of auditing tools for places of worship that are available online, including:

- Interfaith Power and Life Carbon Calculator and Energy Audit (US)
- The Victorian and Tasmanian Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia's Energy Audit Handbook for congregations and agencies
- Catholic Earthcare's Environmental audit
- Christian Ecology Link's Cool Church toolkit

- The Church of England's Shrinking the Footprint energy audit (UK).

A third option is to pay a professional to come out and do an energy audit.

Once you've completed the audit, look at what you can begin implementing immediately, and what needs to be added to a longer-term list. Many of the items you identify will require behaviour changes. You can begin implementing these straight away by educating people. Talk to key people, put up signs and posters, put notices in your newsletter or bulletin.

3. Install solar panels or retrofit

Now you're ready to take the big steps to reduce your place of worship's contribution to climate change. You will have already explored whether your plan is to retrofit the buildings at your place of worship or install solar panels. If you haven't looked into grants to help you meet the upfront costs – now is the time! Remember, AYCC and ARRCC can help you to find grants and rebates in your state. You should also check out:

- the Australian Government's Solar Credits - details of solar panel rebates from the Australian Government for homes and community buildings. (NB. Places of worship qualify for applying for competitive grants under the community buildings component of this scheme.)
- Church Resources assists non-profit organizations with procurement. They have a new program called Greening Communities, which helps places of worship and other non-profit groups to procure cost-effective environmental product solutions. You can join Church Resources' Eco Demand register for solar power (photovoltaic panels), solar hot water and energy efficient fittings (e.g. energy saving light bulbs), as well as for water tanks, grey and black water recycling, and water efficient fittings.

4. Keep us updated

Keep us updated on what you've achieved, so we can use your example to inspire other faith to communities to get involved!

Step 8: Repower your whole faith community

Now that you have Repowered your place of worship, it's time to inspire others in your faith community to do the same at home!

1. Encourage your community to switch to GreenPower in their homes

Switching households to GreenPower involves essentially the same steps as for the place of worship. Hand out or email ARRCC's easy-to-follow **Guide to switching to GreenPower** to the members of your community. Keep track of how many people in your community are switching to GreenPower, by asking them to report back to you, or having a signup sheet in the congregation. You could even ask them to photocopy their next electricity bill and bring it in, so that your faith community can calculate the amount of greenhouse gases you are collectively saving.

2. Encourage your community to reduce their electricity usage

There are plenty of online resources to help households reduce their electricity use. Check out the following websites:

- The NSW Buddhist Council's Eco Sustainable Communities Workbook
 - The Australian Conservation Council's Green-Home website
 - The NABERS Home energy rating and improvement tools
 - Powercor's Home Energy Self-Audit Checklist
- Some local councils provide free home energy audits, so it is worth checking with the local council in your area.

If you undertook an energy audit of your place of worship yourself, you could even offer to help members of your faith community undertake their own audits in return for a donation to continue the work of Repowering your place of worship.

3. Encourage your community to install renewable energy devices in their homes

Encourage members of your faith community to investigate installing renewable energy at their own homes – they could install solar panels and solar hot water heaters. There are a number of grant rebate programs to help households meet the costs of installing renewable energy technologies, mostly by State Governments. AYCC and ARRCC can help you put together information about these programs to hand out to your faith community.

4. Keep us updated

ARRCC would love to hear about what members of your faith community are doing to follow your example. We regularly showcase communities on our website and in our newsletters. Send your stories to info@arrcc.org.au