

**Join with your congregation in this  
12-Month Action Program to cut your household energy use.**

# Task of the Month

## Seal large air leaks.



A house with thermal leakage is like a ship with a small hole in the bottom. Some might decide to ignore the hole and instead bail a little every morning, but the wise person realizes that laboring a little bit every day will eventually waste more energy than putting in one day of work.

(<http://planetgreen.discovery.com/home-garden/sealing-thermal-envelope.html>)

You can find air leakage points by holding a lit incense stick or piece of string near doors, windows, vents, and other seams or openings. Drafts will become apparent as the incense or string moves with the air current. Mark these points with chalk and determine if caulking (the sealing of spaces in non-moving surfaces, such as gaps in walls around ducts and electrical outlets) or weatherstripping (the sealing of the edges of moving surfaces like windows and doors) is required.



For best results choose a cool, windy day and turn on exhaust fans, the furnace, and the clothes dryer. This will draw air out of the house and prompt outside air to come in at leakage points and replace it.

Your local utility or building contractor might also offer a blower door test.

**Cost: \$10 - \$600**

**Estimated Savings: \$80/yr**

**Difficulty: Moderate**

