

“The staff of the Community Energy Challenge were like facility improvement advocates, both encouraging and equipping. The overall result was a great experience with good outcomes for both beliefs and budgets.”

- Thad Imbach  
Facilities Manager, First Presbyterian Church



# COMMUNITY STEWARDS



First Presbyterian Church has been a member of the downtown Bellingham community for more than 120 years, since the construction of the building in 1889. The church had already undertaken some small energy savings measures and they came to the Community Energy Challenge hoping to learn how to reduce their energy usage even further. Through their dedication to being good community stewards, and a collaborative effort on the part of multiple agencies, they have been able to complete several larger projects.

Sustainable Connections partnered with the Opportunity Council for an in-depth analysis of the First Presbyterian building. A no-cost blower door test was performed which indicated that air sealing and insulating above the domed sanctuary would significantly reduce energy costs and improve comfort for patrons. Prior to their energy assessment, the church's spacious attic was mostly uninsulated, with insulation well below the recommended R-value. First Presbyterian hired CAZ Energy Services to insulate and air seal the attic of the main sanctuary, which resulted in the church saving at least \$1,500 annually on heating costs.

A large portion of the building's lighting came from T-12 fluorescent lights and magnetic ballasts; these were replaced with tubular LED fixtures which use 85% less electricity than T-12 fluorescents without compromising light output. Evergreen Light assisted with this project and PSE provided generous rebates to mitigate costs and helped make this project a reality. In the future, First Presbyterian Church has plans to upgrade their heating system to further increase energy efficiency.

*The Community Energy Challenge is reducing NW Washington's energy consumption by helping homes and businesses find smart, simple ways to save. Currently operating in Whatcom, Skagit, Island, and San Juan counties, the program creates green jobs in our community while making energy efficiency more accessible and affordable than ever before.*

## Energy Saving Measures

- Free screw-in LEDs from the CEC
- Tubular LED lighting
- Exterior lights retrofitted with LEDs
- Blower door testing
- Attic space insulated
- Building envelope air sealed

## Partners

- Evergreen Light
- CAZ Energy Services
- Cascade Natural Gas
- Puget Sound Energy
- Opportunity Council



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