



FAQ

CLEAN ENERGY FOR ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS **METRO IAF'S CAMPAIGN FOR ENERGY-SAVING RETROFITS & JOB CREATION**

WHAT IS THIS CAMPAIGN ABOUT?

This two-year campaign has multiple goals:

- 1) Help congregations and nonprofits in New York minimize fossil fuel use and upgrade their buildings' heating, cooling, energy systems and indoor air quality by making energy retrofit projects affordable and manageable for these institutions.
- 2) Create dozens of demonstration projects in high-profile institutions showing the benefits of energy-saving retrofits -- as [St. Bartholomew's Church in White Plains](#) has done.
- 3) Create jobs and career paths for workers in disadvantaged communities.
- 4) Build a team of citizens who will learn from these projects, carry this work forward and scale it up -- helping accelerate the state's transition to clean energy.

WHO IS METRO IAF?

The Metro Industrial Areas Foundation ([Metro IAF](#)) citizens' organizing network brings religious and nonprofit organizations together across lines of faith, race and class to advance our shared interests. For four decades, we've been winning [victories that matter](#) for our people and institutions in the NY Metro area. This initiative was launched by a team of clergy, lay leaders and organizers determined to take impactful action on climate change.

WHO ARE METRO IAF'S PARTNERS?

On energy planning and building retrofits, we are partnering with [BlocPower](#), a Brooklyn-based, [nationally known](#) clean-energy startup that helps small and mid-sized buildings transition to clean energy. Our partner on solar installations is the [Community Purchasing Alliance \(CPA\)](#), which combines the purchasing power of congregations and nonprofits to secure optimal terms for goods and services in a number of areas, including solar. Funding and technical assistance are being provided by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority ([NYSERDA](#)).

WHAT KINDS OF HELP CAN THIS INITIATIVE PROVIDE?

Every building is different, so the starting point is to evaluate your building(s). Funds are available to help you develop a Long-Range Energy Plan specific to your building, and to develop plans for projects you can tackle now. There is additional subsidy available to

carry out retrofit projects in the next two years if you are replacing your oil or gas heating system with an electric heat-pump system. The amount of subsidy is based on the projected energy savings of your project.

WHY IS ELECTRIC HEATING BEING ENCOURAGED BY METRO IAF AND NYSERDA?

Electric heat pumps can deliver highly efficient year-round heating and cooling in your building through a single system, allowing you to eliminate fossil fuel-burning heating systems and wasteful air conditioning units. A heat-pump system allows room-by-room temperature control in your building. In conjunction with expansion of renewable energy supplies to the electric grid, this “beneficial electrification” strategy in buildings is the state’s most important approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. If enough buildings adopt this approach, we can avoid the need for expensive and ecologically damaging new gas pipeline construction in the region.

WHAT OTHER WORK IS INCLUDED IN A TYPICAL ENERGY-SAVING RETROFIT?

Depending on your building, it may also make sense to install rooftop solar (see below); install insulation, seal air leaks, and upgrade your windows; upgrade your lighting and appliances; replace gas-burning stoves and water heaters with efficient electric models; upgrade your building’s electrical capacity and ventilation; and other improvements to minimize energy use and transition away from fossil fuel use.

WHAT CONDITIONS COME WITH RECEIVING SUBSIDIES?

Metro IAF has negotiated significant incentives for energy-saving retrofits for congregations and community institutions willing to meet two requirements:

- 1) They agree to serve as demonstration projects and help expand the pipeline of energy-saving projects in the state.
- 2) Their projects meet labor requirements to ensure that this initiative works to expand and diversify the skilled workforce needed for the state’s energy transition.

WHAT HELP IS AVAILABLE ON SOLAR?

Working with CPA, Metro IAF is organizing a group solar purchase through which building owners combine their bargaining power to negotiate favorable terms with solar developers and receive expert help from CPA in navigating the solar process. For properties where conditions are favorable for solar installations on rooftops, parking lots, or open spaces, these projects will save building owners money and reduce fossil fuel use with no out-of-pocket costs. This process begins with a quick online assessment of your building/property for solar potential.

HOW DO WE START?

[Fill out this form indicating that your institution is ready to explore minimizing your fossil use.](#) Metro IAF will contact you to set up a meeting to learn more about your building and discuss these opportunities. Or, if you have questions, contact Joe Morris at joemorris03@gmail.com.