Faith in Place Smart Energy Mini-Grant Program Description
Ameren Territory

Program Description
The purpose of the Faith in Place Smart Energy Mini-Grant Program is to support faith communities as they educate their members about the importance of Smart Energy programs.

Faith communities must meet several of the following criteria:
- Located in rural central or southern Illinois
- Are low income communities located in the current smart meter roll out territory for Ameren
- Have a membership of 100-150+
- Speak English as a second language

All communities of faith are welcome to apply!

The grant amount is between $1000-$2,500, depending on the size of the faith community.

What is needed to qualify for a mini-grant?
The ordained leadership at each faith community must agree to participate in the Smart Energy education and maintain communication with Faith in Place staff during the course of the grant. During the grant period, the faith community must engage a total of 100-150+ adults in the Smart Energy program.

During the grant period, the house of worship must:
1. Identify a dedicated staff person and/or engaged volunteer who will handle the day-to-day communication with Faith in Place. This person can be the ordained leader or can be a separate individual who has access to the house of worship. He or she will track the number of event attendees (per the metric numbers provided by Faith in Place based on your membership) and complete an update and final report to Faith in Place of the progress of the program and impact at the house of worship.

2. Form a Green Team (with the guidance of a Faith in Place Green Team Coach) if one does not already exist. Green Teams educate their fellow members, motivate their faith community to incorporate environmental consciousness into all activities, and celebrate accomplishments.

3. Host at least 4 Smart Energy educational events (or as many events as it takes to reach your attendance goals). A Faith in Place staff will guide/assist in this area.

4. Utilize volunteers and members of your Green Team to participate in each Smart Energy event your house of worship and help mobilize members of your faith community to attend the events.

5. Collect all of the metric goal number sign-in sheets with specific interest in Ameren’s Peak Time Rewards and Power Smart Pricing programs.
6. Complete a narrative report on the grant at the midpoint and at the completion of the Smart Energy events.

**Faith in Place will:**

1. Assist grantees to create a Green Team or engage their existing Green Team around Smart Energy programs.

2. Host an Engaging Faith in Place event to introduce our mission and programs to grantee members.

3. Support grantees by providing all Smart Energy materials and curriculum needed to educate members at various events.

4. Make staff available to speak during the announcements time in worship, or any other speaking opportunities in English or Spanish.

**Available Funding**

All program materials will be provided by Faith in Place. There is a limited amount of funding available for this program. The award is between $1000- $2,500. Funding will be released in 3 increments: 1/3 at the start of the grant period, 1/3 half-way through the grant, upon submission of midway update report, and 1/3 after the final report is received and reviewed by Faith in Place. Please fill out our Smart Energy interest form to apply.

**Timeline**

The average grant timeline will be between 4-6 months.

**Please contact**

Christina Krost, Outreach Support, at 217-343-4899 or christina@faithinplace.org for more information or with any questions.