

## PROJECT INFORMATION

Program Participant

- **Church of the Nativity**

Location

- **311 Prospect Street  
 Midland Park, NJ 07432**

Project Contact

- **Jack Polito  
 Business Manager  
 Church of the Nativity**

Technology

- **LED lighting**
- **High-efficiency, split-system air conditioners and gas-fired furnace**
- **Programmable thermostats**
- **Faucet aerators**

Total Project Cost

- **\$24,872**

NJCEP Incentives

- **\$17,410 through the  
 Direct Install program**

Estimated Annual Savings

- **10,166 kWh**
- **1,385 therms**
- **\$2,937**

Project Payback

- **2.5 years**

Direct Install Partner

- **Lime Energy**

*Project information, savings and environmental benefits were provided by the project contact.*

## ***Parish's energy-efficiency stewardship benefits school for developmentally disabled***

### **Background**

In keeping with Catholic teachings to conserve natural resources and be mindful of the impacts of climate change, the Church of the Nativity in Midland Park, New Jersey minimizes energy consumption by using a small chapel rather than their full church building for all services except weekend Mass.

The decision to conserve energy is also financial, as heating a 60-year-old church can be expensive. Elsewhere on the parish's 13.5-acre campus, pastoral staff are especially mindful of the costs to power a former grade school leased to the Children's Therapy Center, a non-profit school for children ages seven through thirteen with cerebral palsy and other disabilities. The school provides occupational and physical therapy along with classroom instruction.

With attendance expanding at the Children's Therapy Center, the parish has long sought opportunities to reduce operating costs for the school, which uses the building nearly all year round. "It's a very expensive operation in terms of gas and electricity. We're a modest parish without a lot of excess funds," said Jack Polito, business manager for the Church of the Nativity. "Whatever we can do to control our utility costs is a big plus."



*The Church of the Nativity purchased energy-efficient air conditioning units for the chapel and a new furnace for the parish hall, as well as new LED lighting for the school building occupied by the Children's Therapy Center.*

Polito was interested in improving energy efficiency across the parish campus, but limited funds led him to wait until equipment would malfunction before buying replacements. In 2015, however, the parish chose to proactively replace much of their heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) and lighting equipment upon learning of the financial incentives offered through *New Jersey's Clean Energy Program™* (NJCEP). The parish and school have been saving energy and money ever since.

### **Solution**

The NJCEP Direct Install program offers a free energy assessment and incentives

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that cover up to 70 percent of the cost to upgrade equipment in buildings that use as much as 200 kW per month of electricity. Direct Install is a turnkey solution that makes it easy and affordable to upgrade to high-efficiency lighting and HVAC equipment.

Lime Energy, a participating NJCEP contractor, approached the Church of the Nativity to offer an energy audit. Their assessment determined that installing new lighting throughout the school and three new HVAC units in the parish hall and chapel would offer the parish and its tenants significant energy savings within a short timeframe.

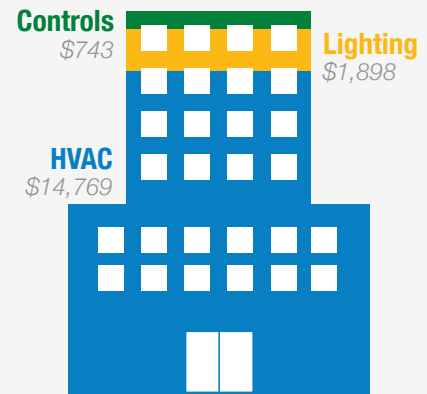
The parish installed \$24,872 of equipment, including LED lighting, two high-efficiency split-system air conditioners, an efficient gas-fired furnace, programmable thermostats and faucet aerators.

NJCEP provided \$17,410 in incentives to lower the project cost to \$7,462. In addition, Lime Energy anticipates the project will save the parish and its tenants 10,166 kWh of electricity and 1,385 therms of natural gas, resulting in total annual energy cost savings of \$2,937 and enabling the project to pay for itself in 2.5 years.

“When you’re a small Catholic parish, every dollar matters. The program leaves us with more funds available to do things that are beneficial for the church such as community and liturgical events,” Polito said.

With the Children’s Therapy Center considering whether to move to a larger space to accommodate a growing student body, the NJCEP incentives have also helped the parish better prepare for the possibility that they will need to find new tenants.

### Anticipated Project Incentives: \$17,410



“We will now have a more energy-efficient property that should be more attractive to the next tenant who will come in and assume the space,” Polito said. “Most churches don’t have investment capabilities and instead make changes on an as-needed basis. As a non-profit that needs a little bit of an incentive to make changes, this program is ideal. It allows us to take a more forward-looking view.”