

Faith & the Common Good



Greening Sacred Spaces

OUR VISION

Faith communities working side by side for a greener, healthier, more resilient Canada.

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2013 HIGHLIGHTS



3000-10000+
unique visits per month
to our GSS website

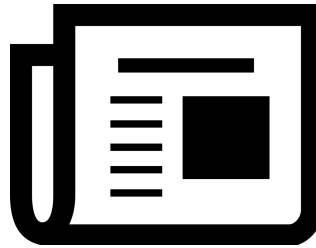
Website
subscribers:
300+



Facebook Likes /
Twitter Followers

f 396

(with 600+ engaged users)



14 Media articles

Newsletter subscribers:

3000+

(with a 25-30% open rate)

100

Faith building
audits & retrofits

14 Faith Traditions Represented



559

ivities

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Event Participants

389 Volunteers,
Interfaith steering committee
members & trustees

12,000+
Volunteer Hours



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Dear Friends -

When you join Faith & the Common Good's Greening Sacred Spaces network, you are joining thousands of people of faith across Canada who are creating greener, healthier communities.

Faith & the Common Good was founded on the belief that our diverse faith congregations can be powerful role models for the common good. Our Greening Sacred Spaces network shares a calling to protect our ecosystem and a passion for community service. Despite our differences in theology, dress, and culture, our core beliefs in the need to heal our planet draw us together.

Anthropologist Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Just take a look at the volunteer "green teams" behind the hundreds of greening activities sponsored by our faith-based



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an example

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ons who have

worked with us to engage their local faith congregations in sustainability events and activities. We thank them and recognize that we are only one among the many good groups working in common cause for a healthier planet.

Finally, to all our donors and supporters. Thank you for your confidence in the importance of our work to engage and support Canada's diverse faith sector in community greening across the country. You are our interfaith and intercultural network – Canadians of diverse faith and deep hope, learning from, and appreciating each other, as we work together to preserve our natural heritage for generations to come.

Lucy Cummings

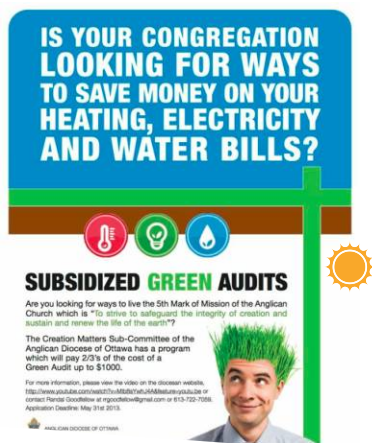
Executive Director,

Faith & The Common Good



Lucy (right) and colleague Christina Read at a Halton-Peel EcoFair.

GREENING FAITH BUILDINGS



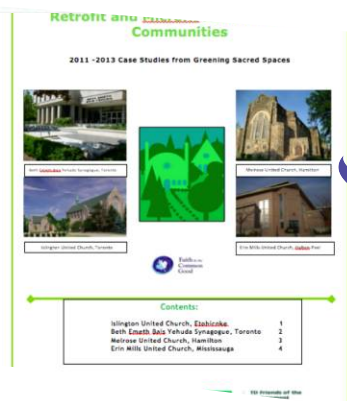
Controlling rising operating and maintenance costs in face of shrinking congregations is one of the greatest practical challenges for many faith groups. In 2013, a vital part of our work continued to be helping faith communities respond to this challenge in a sustainable manner.

- ☀ In 2013, we received subsidies from Direct Energy, the United Church of Canada, and the Anglican Church of Canada to help faith communities offset Green Audit and retrofit costs.

- 🌱 Our local chapters continued to help congregations take advantage of Ontario's renewable energy and energy conservation incentives, such as supporting Morningside-High Park Presbyterian with their solar panel installation.

- 💡 We also continued to deliver a variety of targeted workshops for faith-based property and environmental teams, like "Making the Business Case for Solar Water Heating" co-sponsored by REEP in Waterloo and "Go Green," co-sponsored by the Islamic Institute of Toronto. In Toronto, Toronto Hydro and the City's Better Business Partnerships have been important supporters of this work.

- 📖 Our website features a variety of practical publications around greening your sacred space. In 2013, funding from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation enabled us to update and republish case studies of retrofit and microFIT actions by faith congregations.



YOUTH ECO-SPIRITUALITY

YOUTH VOICES OUTREACH MANUAL



2013

How to organize an inter-faith youth group



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Letting the voices of youth eco-spirituality bloom has been a big focus of our work at Faith & the Common Good in 2013. To name just a few of the great programs:

- ☀ In Peterborough, our Sacred Water Circle partners published their “Youth Voices Outreach Manual” on how to organize interfaith youth.
- ▲ Greening Sacred Spaces reps across our network encouraged young people to share the hopes and anxieties of their eco-spiritual stories, in forums like Fo Guang Shan’s North American Buddhist youth gathering, Earth Day’s Youth Summit and local youth Theatre productions in Hamilton.
- 💧 Sheng Shen Catholic Parish in Ottawa harnessed the environmental passions of their youth green team to undertake a Green Audit
- 💧 Our Halton and Peel chapters teamed up with local conservation authorities and university multi-faith programs to spearhead youth eco-spirituality programs.

GREENING OUTDOOR SACRED SPACES



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In 2013, more and more faith groups expressed interest in expanding their greening efforts beyond their buildings to their outdoor sacred spaces. Most of our chapters are engaged with interfaith outdoor greening initiatives, such as tree plantings, shoreline cleanups or community gardens.

- ▲ We added a [Greening Outdoor Spaces](#) page to our website for members who wanted more tools for this work, connecting them with existing faith-based garden networks and resources
- 🌿 Our Hamilton Chapter, based out of Environment Hamilton, continues to be very active in promoting access to local, healthy sustainable food, as seen in their 2013 Nourishing Hamilton Fair.
- 🌿 Our Halton Peel chapter works very closely with their local conservation authority. We worked with Credit Valley Conservation and The David Suzuki Foundation to support Solel Congregation Synagogue transform their grounds with native species and edible plantings.
- 🌞 Our Halton Peel chapter also co-sponsored a family friendly “Great Shoreline Clean Up” event with Credit Valley Conservation and the Sayeda Khadija Centre

SACRED WATER



In 2013, Faith & the Common Good was proud to partner with Peterborough's Sacred Water Circle.

- Inspired by traditional Indigenous teaching and leading with hope and spiritual courage, Sacred Water Circle seeks to create dialogue around spiritually-based environmental issues, and to motivate communities and governments to act to set policy that will protect our water, by leading with prayer and walking together..



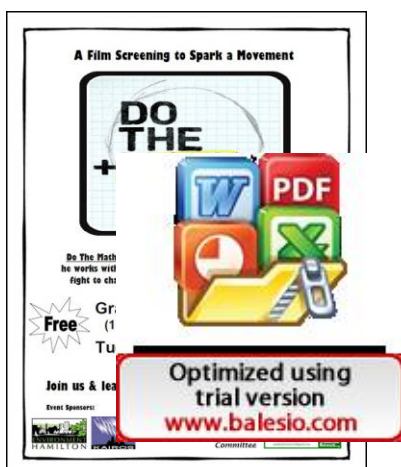
- ▲ Our collaboration with this initiative has been transformative for our team. The picture here features Chair Bill Phipps and Senior Program Rep Cathy Mitchell sharing a meal with Sacred Water Circle Elders. We expect to apply our learning in community based water conservation action throughout our network in 2014 and beyond.



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CLIMATE CHANGE



Supporting faith communities to address the threat of climate change continues to be a primary focus of our work and infuses all of our program goals.

On climate change, like so many other issues, our network is made stronger by working together with a multitude of community partners like 350.org, [Our Horizons](http://OurHorizons.org), Khaleafa.com, and [KAIROS](http://KAIROS.org), all of whom have a range of grassroots climate change advocacy and educational resources for Canadian congregations.

The photos you see here are from such collaborative events, ranging from films on fossil fuel divestment to briefings on renewable energy and climate threats to biodiversity.

Canada's faith groups are important players in the battle to curb our GHG emissions:

27,600 religious establishments in Canada (NRCan, 2009)

Religious establishments make up 4% of energy use of Canada's commercial and institutional building stock (NRCan, 2009)

An average place of worship in Canada generates roughly 77 tons of GHG emissions per year (NRCan, 2009). That's equivalent to 4 homes or 16 cars. (US EPA equivalency tables).

Collectively, Canada's faith establishments are contributing over 2.1 million tons of GHG emissions into the environment each year. That's the equivalent of the carbon sequestered in over 1.7 million acres of forest. (US EPA equivalency tables).

CELEBRATING FAITH LEADERSHIP



Each year Faith & the Common Good presents the Green Sacred Space Award to recognize the contributions of faith communities who demonstrate commitment in the care of the environment through action. These awards provide a way for people from diverse faith traditions to come together with the shared purpose of affirming and celebrating those who lead the way for all of us in stewardship.

[Follow this link to celebrate all of our 2013 winners!](#)

2013 also marked the final year of our Green Certification pilot project with the Anglican Diocese of Huron and their EnviroAction committee. Participating parishes applied on-line for light, medium, or deep green status to recognize efforts that they have made to “green” their congregations. Successful applicants then received their certificates from the Bishop at the Diocese of Huron’s Synod. Thank you to EnviroAction’s Nancy Harvey for helping us in identifying and correcting the kinks in the program.

[Look for a full-fledged program launch in 2014!](#)

Greening Sacred Spaces Annual Forum

Each year Greening Sacred Spaces partners with the Toronto United Church Conferences’ Green Awakening Network to present an interfaith conference entitled “Green Choices for Faith Communities.” Presentations and workshops at the 2013 forum explored the practical steps, advocacy initiatives, and heart and mind changes involved in “making the leap” to an alternative energy future. [A copy of the presentations can be found here.](#)



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CELEBRATING FAITH LEADERSHIP

2013 Media Coverage

- <http://www.thespec.com/news-story/4120547-greening-sacred-spaces-connects-faith-environment/>, Greening Sacred Spaces Connects Faith, Environment, *The Hamilton Spectator*
- <http://www.brantnews.com/community-story/4118822-shoreline-cleanup-kicks-off-in-mississauga/>, Shoreline Cleanup Kicks Off in Mississauga, *Mississauga News*
- <http://www.insidehalton.com/community-story/2908225-st-christopher-s-church-receives-greening-sacred-spaces-award/>, St. Christopher's Church Receives Greening Sacred Spaces Award, *Inside Halton*
- <http://www.directenergy.com/newsroom/press-releases/2013/direct-energy-awards-toronto-nonprofit>, Direct Energy Presents Toronto's Faith & Common Good \$2500 Grant, *Direct Energy.com*
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mlb8sYwhJ4A>, Green Audit – Greening Sacred Spaces, Anglican Diocese of Ottawa
- http://www.islingtonunited.org/greenteam/gss_award.shtml, Congratulations, Islington United!, *Islington United.org*
- <http://theinterfaithobserver.org/journal/tio-in-canada-january-2013.html>, Faith & the Common Good Celebrates a Decade of Achievements, *The Interfaith Observer*
- http://www.espritvertqc.com/uploads/2/4/3/7/24379744/a_green_audit_-_the_audit_you_actually_want_qct_12.04.2013_3.pdf, A Green Audit: The Audit You Actually Want, *Quebec Chronicle Telegraph*
- <http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/green-congregations-promote-sustainability/>, Green Congregations Promote Sustainability, *Calvin Institute of Christian Worship*
- <http://www.dioceseofalgoma.com/UploadedFiles/file/Algoma%20Anglican/December%202013.pdf>, Going Green in Sudbury, *Algoma Anglican*
- <http://www.mississauga.com/community-story/4225436-utm-students-participate-in-multi-faith-eco-retreat/>, UTM Students Participate in Multi-faith Eco Retreat, *Mississauga News*
- http://www.catholicottawa.ca/pictures/Ottawa_Newsletter/Vinter2013.pdf, Youth Engagement Leads to Green Audit at c Church, *Catholic Ottawa*



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ear partnership with REEP in Kitchener-Waterloo came to a
50 faith communities involved in sponsoring over 200 greening
t reached over 15,000 persons. Our thanks to the Ontario Trillium
his collaboration, to Jane Snyder for her chapter leadership, and to all
to help who worked so hard behind the scenes to make this partnership a success.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Beyond our work with individual faith groups, community collaboration is fundamental to who we are. We help connect Canada's diverse faith groups with the wide variety of local non-profit, municipal and commercial organizations dedicated to a sustainable future. On behalf of all of us at Greening Sacred Spaces, heartfelt thanks to all our local partners and funders who work so tirelessly for greener, healthier neighborhoods.

TUCC Green Awakening Network, Better Buildings Partnership, Toronto Hydro, PACT, Toronto Atmospheric Fund, Toronto Energy Alliance, Evergreen, Solar Share, Live Green Toronto, Citizens for Climate Change, For our Grandchildren, Toronto Social Housing, KAIROS, Canadian Council of Churches, **Environment Hamilton**, Toronto Anglican Diocese, Khaleafa, UJA, Toronto Catholic Diocese, P.O.W.E.R., Interfaith Council of Peel, University of Toronto Multi-Faith Center, Scarboro Missions, Peterborough GreenUP, **Community Environmental Alliance**, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Ottawa, Scarboro Missions, Islam Care Center, Canada Green Building Council, Intercultural Dialogue Institute, McMaster University, Scenechange.ca, Hamilton Faith Groups in Action (Social Planning Research Council), Hamilton Regional Indian Centre, Hamilton Executive Directors of Aboriginal Council, United Nations in Hamilton, Culture of Peace Hamilton, IDEA Burlington, Hamilton 350, New Generation Youth Center (NGEN), Unfiltered Facts Youth group (Hamilton Public Health), Plan B Organics, Green Venture, New Hope Community Bikes, Mohawk College, **Sacred Water Circle**, **Abrahamic Festival Peterborough**, West Hamilton Food Co-operative, Seeds of Diversity, Ontario Christian Gleaners, Environmental Defense, HARE, Hamilton Food Charter, **Peace and Environment Resource Centre**, **Tucker House Renewal Centre**, Sustainable Eastern Ontario, National Capital Environmental Nonprofit Network, Halton Interfaith Council, Oakville

{ , Burlington Green, Go

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Oakville, Halton Food Council, Tutored By Nature, Oakville Hydro, Enersource, **Halton Environmental Network**, Gaia Farmhouse Retreat, Curve Lake First Nation, Seeds of Change Peterborough, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Credit Valley Conservation, North American Interfaith Network, Community Renewable Energy Waterloo (CREW), Grand River Environmental Network, Green Rocket, Sustainable Waterloo Region, **REEP**, Mennonite Central Committee Ontario, WLU Aboriginal Students Association, Transition KW, Cambridge City Green, Transition Erin, Guelph Hydro, Waterloo Region Environmental Network (WREN), Muslim Social Services Kitchener-Waterloo, Futures Development Corporation, Kawartha World Issues Center, United Church of Canada Truth and Reconciliation Commission, **Peterborough Green-Up**, Fleming College, Council of Canadians, Baagawating Community Association, First People House of Learning, Seeds of Change Community Hub, Peterborough Source Water Protection Group, Alderville First Nation, OxFam, Trent University, The Tracks Program, Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre, Nijikiwendidaa Anishnaabekwegaw Services Circle, Hiawatha First Nation, Alderville First Nation, The Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, Rotary Club of Peterborough, The Township of Otonabee South Monaghan, Selwyn Township, The City of Peterborough, Idle No More, Kawartha World Issues Center, Green Business Peterborough, Sustainable Peterborough, Transition Town Peterborough, Sustainable Trent, Ecology Ottawa, Eglise Vert, Hydro One, Council on Aging.

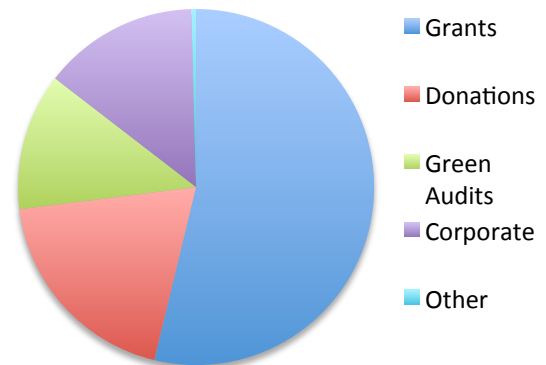
: Ontario Trillium Foundation, TD Friends of the Environment
urch of Canada, Anglican Church of Canada, Toronto Hydro,

FINANCES

REVENUE

Grants and foundations	98,400
Donations	34,480
Corporate and NGO contributions	25,300
Publications and green audit fees	22,304
Other income	768
	\$181,152

REVENUE

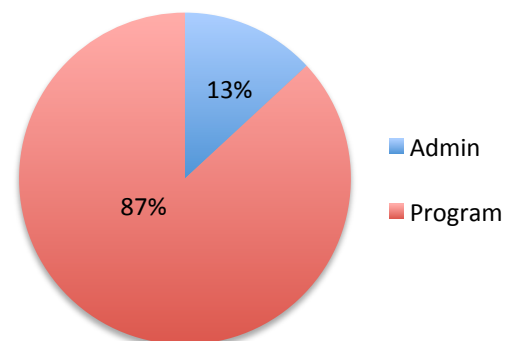


EXPENSES

PROGRAM

Green audits	19,711
Partnerships and promotion	38,917
Travel	4,155
Website	3,147
Workshops and events	1,273
Staff	90,017
Program Total	\$157,222

EXPENSES

ADMINISTRATION

Personnel	8,800
Insurance	2,727
C	3,474
F	3,000
F	3,800
F	1,906
A	\$23,707



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TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS

\$180,927

CONTACT US

Faith & the Common Good's accomplishments are made possible due to the passion, hard work, and talent of its terrific team of staff, board members and volunteers in many cities and regions. We couldn't list everyone here, but our deep thanks to all!

Board of Directors

Bill Phipps (Chair), Randal Goodfellow, Azba Hathiyan, Ayal Lesh, Mishka Lysack, David MacDonald, Garth Schmalenburg, Peter Wilkins

Staff Team

Diana Brushey, Chaya Chengappa, Stephen Collette, Lucy Cummings, John Dorner, Beatrice Ekwa Ekoko, Kristina Inrig, Donna Lang, Kim Maxwell, Cathy Mitchell, David Patterson, Christina Read, Ted Reeve, Ted Whitmell

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