A beautiful drawing from a Grade 11 Cardinal Newman Catholic High School student inspired by Faith & the Common Good’s Green Rule poster.
OUR VISION
Faith communities working side by side for a greener, healthier, more resilient Canada.

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

Website subscribers: 300+

Facebook Likes / Twitter Followers
396 (with 600+ engaged users)

Newsletter subscribers: 3000+ (with a 25-30% open rate)

14 Media articles

14 Faith Traditions Represented

100 Faith building audits & retrofits

789 Active Faith Communities

559 Green Events & Activities

389 Volunteers, Interfaith steering committee members & trustees

12,000+ Volunteer Hours
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 organizations as an example of this truth in action.

This year we are making a point of recognizing all of the amazing community organizations 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
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.
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.
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.
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.
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, Khaleafa.com, and KAIROS, 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)*.
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.
2013 Media Coverage

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIb8sYwhJ4A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIb8sYwhJ4A), Green Audit – Greening Sacred Spaces, Anglican Diocese of Ottawa
- [http://www.islingtonunited.org/greenteam/gssAward.shtml](http://www.islingtonunited.org/greenteam/gssAward.shtml), Congratulations, Islington United!, *Islington United.org*
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.


**Our funding partners:** Ontario Trillium Foundation, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Anglican Church 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

**Total Revenue**  
$181,152

**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

**ADMINISTRATION**

Personnel  
8,800

Insurance  
2,727

Rent  
1,906

**Administration Total**  
$23,707

**Total Program Costs**  
$180,927
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 Hathiyani, Ayal Lesh, Mishka Lysack, David MacDonald, Garth Schmalenburg, Peter Wilkins

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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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