



Faith & the
Common Good

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



Optimized using
trial version
www.balesio.com

Water Walk
Those Who Walk for the Water;
Photo credit, Georgie Horton
Baptiste.



Faith & the
Common
Good

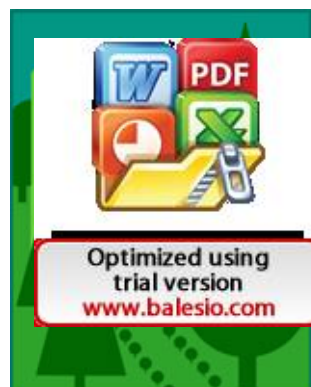
Greening Sacred Spaces

OUR VISION

Supporting diverse faith communities to create greener, healthier, more resilient neighbourhoods.

Table of Contents

2014 Highlights	<u>3</u>
Executive Director Letter	<u>4</u>
Programs	<u>5</u>
Sustainable Faith Buildings	<u>5</u>
Youth Eco-Spirituality	<u>8</u>
Sacred Water	<u>9</u>
Climate Change and Divestment	<u>10</u>
Community Green Spaces	<u>12</u>
Capacity Building	<u>13</u>
Celebrating Faith Leadership	<u>15</u>
Finances	<u>17</u>
Contact Us	<u>18</u>



2014 HIGHLIGHTS



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

Website
Subscribers
300+

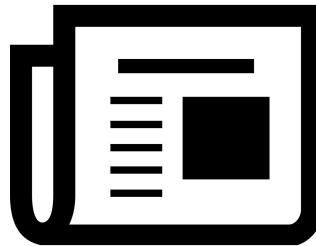


Facebook Likes



620

[150% more than 2013]



Newsletter Subscribers

3000+

[with a 25-30% open rate]

15 Media articles



340

Twitter Followers

120

Faith Communities in
Our Network with Solar

FossilFreeFaith

2,465 views from
598 unique visitors
to our FFF website



65 Google Group Members

89 Facebook likes

5 Faith Building Audits & Retrofits

120 Faith Communities in our
Network with solar power

447 Volunteers, Interfaith
Steering Committee
Members & Trustees



Faith Communities

14 Faith Traditions Represented

Optimized using
trial version
www.balesio.com

86+ Open Activities

8422
Event Participants

12000+
Volunteer Hours

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER



All around the world, people are raising their voices and calling for a liveable future. As faith communities, we have an advantage: every faith tradition teaches that we humans are stewards of the earth. It's on this basis that we support people of faith to act on behalf of our home planet, its inhabitants and future generations. At Faith & the Common Good, our goal is to assist faith and spiritual groups across Canada to be **strong leaders** in helping to create green, healthy, and resilient neighborhoods.

Over the last year, staff and board have been working to develop relevant resources, innovative programs, and to reach new audiences to get our message out; faith communities can serve as role models for a cleaner, more sustainable, more just society. How? There are many ways to achieve these ends including setting an example by greening our places of worship and preparing it to receive those who will be most impacted by the effects of climate change, supporting local sustainable food systems, divesting from destructive fossil fuels, protecting local water resources and turning to and promoting more sustainable energy.

Our network is growing: We are here to assist you by offering opportunities to partner with one another, to share resources, to share stories of success and challenge and to add voices to the cause.

My hope is that our 2014 Annual report will inspire your faith community to bigger and bolder action. The movement for a resilient climate future is happening. Will you join us in playing a significant role in helping to move it forward?



Optimized using
trial version
www.balesio.com

Lucy Cummings

Executive Director, Faith & the Common Good

SUSTAINABLE FAITH BUILDINGS



Toronto Hydro and Osram Sylvania Present:

Taking the "LEED" on LEDs

LED LIGHTING WEBINAR

Energy Efficient LED lighting technologies for interior & exterior applications at your Faith Building

Wed. March 19, 2014 – 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

EXAMINE the latest in energy efficient LED lighting technology

EXPLORE Toronto Hydro Retrofit incentive programs for cost saving lighting retrofits

LEARN from Canada's leading lighting experts how LED can help you save both energy and money; this will include a faith building case study & payback

To register for this FREE workshop, go to:

March 19 LED Lighting Webinar

For more information contact:

Donna Ling at dling@faith-commongood.net or call 416-483-1327



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



Left: *St. Barnabas, Apostle and Martyr (Ottawa Diocese, ACC).*

Center: *Energy efficiency lighting for faith buildings webinar*

Right: *Church of the Ascension (Algoma Diocese, ACC).*

GREEN AUDIT

An overarching challenge confronting faith groups is meeting rising operating and maintenance costs in the face of shrinking congregations. In 2014, a vital part of our work continued to support faith communities in addressing this challenge, through education and raising awareness about available opportunities, both at FCG as well as through local programs.

Our subsidized Green Audit program with the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC), is an example of what we offered to participating ACC parishes. These parishes committed to energy saving actions following the audit (once the parish has implemented Green Audit recommendations). Parishes also hosted public information seminars with FCG, on energy efficiency. They will be collecting energy consumption data for at least two consecutive years following the audit. This data will help establish a baseline against which parishes can measure environmental performance improvements year over year.

A report was written concerning these energy conservation actions completed in response to the audit for each of these parishes. LINK: <http://bit.ly/1IdeQ15>



Optimized using
trial version
www.balesio.com

SUSTAINABLE FAITH BUILDINGS



Left: With representatives from 4 synagogues, receiving a cheque from Toronto Hydro for the energy savings retrofit of Lipa Green Centre in Toronto (Part of SaveOnEnergy program).

Right: PNUC Solar Cooperative, Port Nelson United Church, Burlington, ON.

Our local FCG chapters continued to assist congregations in taking advantage of Ontario's renewable energy and energy conservation incentives. For example, "Taking the LEED on LEDS: Workshops" in the Toronto area were offered in partnership with Toronto Hydro. Participants learned about LED technology and energy savings incentives to provide faith groups and low-income residents with attractive cost savings.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Supporting faith groups to model a clean energy future is an important part of our programming. In Hamilton, we conducted a tour of the Meadowlands Fellowship Christian Reformed Church in Ancaster, the only exclusively geo-thermally heated and cooled church in North America.

In November 2014, we launched a brand new initiative called *Renewable Energy Revival for Faith Communities*, to encourage faith communities to take advantage of Ontario's Feed-in-Tariff and become leaders in solar generation. This project is funded by IESO. Visit the link <http://bit.ly/1MUqctK>

**BUILDING A
GEO-THERMAL CHURCH**

Meadowlands Fellowship Christian Reformed Church in Ancaster is the only exclusively geo-thermally heated and cooled church in North America. Denise Neutel will give a talk and tour of this building constructed in 2005.

Greening Sacred Spaces H-A-R-E

Saturday
Registration

Optimized using
trial version
www.balesio.com

SUSTAINABLE FAITH BUILDINGS



Above: Showcasing food waste management, Sheng Shen (Holy Spirit) Catholic Parish, Archdiocese of Ottawa

Below: Sai Dham Canada Waste-Less Planting, August 20, 2014

WASTE MANAGEMENT

The way we dispose of our waste has a tremendous impact on the environment. At FCG we have been developing guides and resources to help faith groups handle the waste that they produce.. Our Ottawa chapter has been working with the Catholic parishes on recycling, disposal of food scraps and other organic materials, and becoming familiar with the municipality's programs and using reusable and washable dinnerware. In Peel, with our partners Community Environment Alliance, we piloted a Zero waste 'soil-less' growing system at a Temple. This initiative piloted an innovative growing system to grow food in an efficient and eco-friendly way. The aim is to help increase accessibility of healthy, fresh food to individuals and families facing socio- economic barriers in the community while bringing awareness about the environmental impacts from conventional food production. 130 vegetables were planted as a test run in 2014.



Optimized using
trial version
www.balesio.com

YOUTH ECO-SPIRITUALITY



Left: Green Rule Retreat for Youth. Riverwood Conservancy in Mississauga.



Centre: August 2014 Multi-faith Nature Walk, led by Toronto's Greening Sacred Spaces youth steering committee



Right: Green Rule Retreat for Youth. Riverwood Conservancy in Mississauga.

The Green Rule focuses on the importance of our relationship with the environment and how we should treat our earth. A multi-faith, eco-spiritual event, the March 2014 Green Rule Retreat encouraged interfaith dialogue on common good issues among youth, at the Riverwood Conservancy in Mississauga. The retreat brought together diverse young people who explored and discussed important environmental issues as they relate to various faiths. Green rule activities and an eco-spiritual walk were also a part of the day. The Green Rule Retreat was brought together by Greening Sacred Spaces, Halton Presbytery, Scarboro Missions, The Riverwood Conservancy, U of T Mississauga, and Dufferin Peel Catholic District.

With the Community Environmental Alliance, we were able to conduct a survey with youth through our partnership with the Religious Diversity Youth Leadership project of the Multi Faith Centre, University of Toronto. This survey sought to identify the key drivers for enabling sustainable healthy communities and to understand how youth representing diverse faith communities can be the "Change Leaders" in enabling this positive change.



Country Fun Nature Camp, is an "eco-ecumenical" day camp run by our partners at Tucker House Renewal Centre. Youth volunteers and young adults run environmentally-focused, faith-based programs for children each July.

SACRED WATER



*Sacred Water Circle
Gathering.*



In 2014, our focus on water protection was lead by our Peterborough chapter. Our partnership with the Sacred Water Circle (SWC) has been transformative for our entire network. It is an initiative that is lead by Indigenous spirituality. Volunteers from all cultures raise awareness about the importance of water and aim to motivate communities and governments to set policies to protect water by leading with prayer and walking together.

SWC hosted Indigenous Spiritual Leaders and Community Leaders from North and South America visitors, for a three day, annual Gathering in May. Participants learned about local and global water issues shared information to inspire change in our relationship with water, which is a living, spiritual element.

The event honored the sacredness of water with ceremony, traditional Indigenous teachings, and interactive dialogue between industry, scientists, professors, water professionals and the general public.



Optimized using
trial version
www.balesio.com



CLIMATE CHANGE

Dialogue on Fossil Fuel Divestment

"People of conscience need to break their ties with corporations financing the injustice of climate change."

Archbishop Desmond Tutu



With Invited Speakers and Panel Discussion



religious institutions to **invest in our future** and actively advocate for social & environmental justice."

- Maisaloon Al-Ashkar, Muslim Unceded Coast Salish Territories, Vancouver BC

Have #FaithInMyFuture. Divest from Fossil Fuel

FossilFreeFaith.ca/Youth

From left to right, Faith community discussions on fossil fuel divestment in Ottawa, Hamilton and Vancouver.

2014 was a pivotal year for faith-based climate action, with faith communities around the world stepping up to the call for action on climate. FCG sought to connect with and leverage this international momentum to support similar actions here at home.

In particular, many in our network wanted a balanced exploration of some of the economic tools that Canadian faith communities and individuals can leverage to support a clean energy future. Are we morally obligated to use the power of our purses to end our dependency on fossil fuels? Can fossil fuel divestment make a difference? If so, how do we proceed? What types of reinvestment options are available? What resources are available to help us inform our congregations?

In Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa, Waterloo, along with partners such as the Green Awakening Network, Divest Waterloo, 350.org, Creation Matters Committee from the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, we hosted discussions, forums and presentations on fossil fuel divestment for faith communities. Some of the keynote speakers included Rev. Fletcher Harper, Executive Director of GreenFaith, Jane Ambachtsheer, Partner and Global Head of Responsible Investment at Mercer, and Tim Nash, The Sustainable Economist.



Optimized using
trial version
www.balesio.com

CLIMATE CHANGE



*Left: With Bill McKibben.
Climate March, New York City*



*Right: Light For Lima,
Parliament Hill, Ottawa*

*Below: Leslie Gabriel Mezei
explaining the Lima Vigil, and
reading Bishop Tutu's prayer
for it, with Diane Mezei, his
granddaughter, looking on .*

In late spring, we teamed up with Vancouver-based Spirited Social Change to start an initiative called "Fossil Free Faith" (FFF). Over the summer, the FFF working group of ten volunteers finalized a work plan. A website, facebook page, twitter feed, and google group were brought on-line. In the fall, we did a soft launch of the website and Fossil Free Faith received funding through the Inspirit Foundation for an interfaith youth climate fellows initiative in Vancouver.

FCG network members joined people of faith from around the world in New York City for the 400k strong People's Climate March. We also participated in Union Theological Seminary's Religions for the Earth conference and multifaith climate service featuring over 200 religious and spiritual leaders from around the world to discuss religious activism in support of climate justice.

We ended the year by co-hosting "LightForLima" events in Toronto & Ottawa, co-organized with Citizens for Public Justice [Ottawa] and Sufi Order International (Toronto). The events were part of a global initiative lead by OurVoices to raise awareness and prayer in support of a stronger global commitment for climate action.



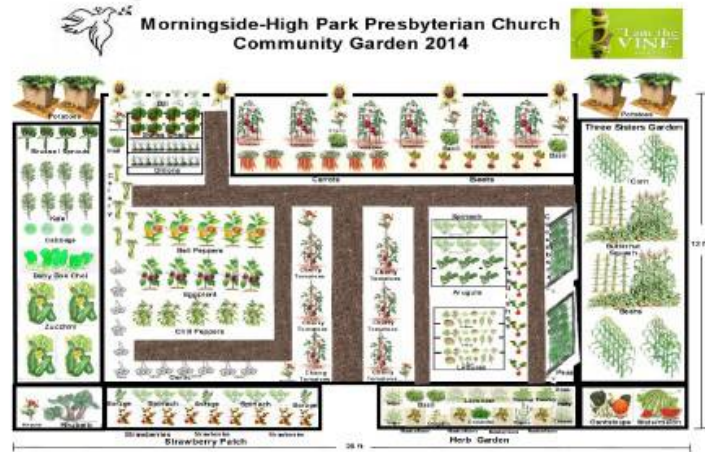
COMMUNITY GREEN SPACES



Left: Islington United's Garden in Toronto. 100% of their produce goes to local Mabelle Food Bank. They transport the produce using a push cart so their transportation is green too!

Right: Community garden plan for Morningside-High Park Presbyterian Church, Toronto

Below: Networking around food sovereignty and food security brought over 14 groups at the 4th Nourishing Hamilton Fair, Beth Jacob Synagogue, Hamilton.



Our networks are very interested in using their outdoor spaces creatively, including community vegetable gardening for sustainable food systems, planting habitat for pollinators with native flower gardens and beautifying their grounds in a sustainable way. To this end, we participated in many local events such as "Seedy Saturday" and our yearly Nourishing Hamilton Fair. We developed an "Edible Gardening Guide" <http://bit.ly/1fi9kLt> and video "An Edible Garden" (Morningside-High Park Presbyterian Church) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shaG8NOlxF4>.

come out to the fourth
NOURISHING HAMILTON FAIR:
FOOD, FAITH AND JUSTICE

Sunday May 4th, 2014
1:30 to 4:00pm

Beth J
375 Al
Hamilton

VENDORS INCLUDE:

Optimized using
trial version
www.balesio.com

Emerson Hamilton
905 549-0900
bekoko@emersonhamilton.org

Tom Nagy will offer his
'Grow your own Mushrooms'
Workshop from 2pm-3pm

Greening Sacred Spaces

CAPACITY BUILDING



Left: FCG receives Olive Tree Foundation recognition at the Sayeda Khadija Centre



Right: Volunteers getting ready to flyer the neighbourhood. Laidlaw United Church, Hamilton.

2014 was a year of forging new partnerships and building and deepening connections with our network members, diverse faith groups, and community stakeholders.

FCG's Greening Sacred Spaces staff team members were invited to participate in the City of Vaughan, Peterborough and Hamilton's community climate action planning councils. In Toronto, our chapter partnered with the Clean Air Partnership's monthly meeting of municipal sustainability leaders to discuss utilizing faith communities to advance local extreme weather resilience. In Ottawa, FCG's Diana Bushey was nominated as a public hero at the Intercultural Dialogue Institute's Annual award ceremony. In Hamilton, our member Laidlaw United Church partnered with local groups to facilitate the dialogue around bringing a Local Improvement Charge program to the city, that would help homeowners do energy conservation on their properties, without having to put out the money upfront.

GOOD TO GREAT

To become greater at what we do, we participated in the year long "Good to Great" program ([Sustainability Network](#)) along with six other environmental not-for-profits. Good to Great is an organizational capacity building program that provides an opportunity for ENGOS to consider, develop and implement strategies to significantly increase their impact through Direct Management Assistance (DMA) and Learning Networks.



Optimized using
trial version
www.balesio.com

CAPACITY BUILDING



Teams from FCG, CAPE, ReForest London, Tucker House, Kensington Conservancy, and Green Venture contemplating how to strengthen their environmental impact.

STAKEHOLDER SURVEY

With Good to Great funding support, FCG conducted an “Online Stakeholder Survey” of our country-wide network. After ten years of outreach, we wanted to reassess our programs, our communications and our strategic direction. What works? What doesn’t? Where can we improve?

One of the questions we asked our members was “Why is it important for you to care for the planet?” The majority of the 270 respondents checked off “I want to leave the world a better place for the next generation.” “What are the areas where we can make the biggest difference?” was another question. Most felt that our continued interfaith network building and youth programming were among our most important tasks as an organization. In what areas? It was almost a tie between “awareness raising around climate change [e.g., hosting educational or advocacy events] and “promoting renewable and clean energy.”

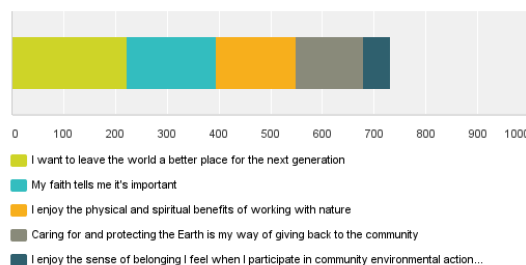
We plan to continue using the feedback to help ensure that FCG’s sustainability programming meets the needs of the diverse people of faith across Canada who are creating greener, healthier communities.



Optimized using
trial version
www.balesio.com

Q1 Why is it important for you to care for and protect the Earth? Please list your top 3 reasons

Answered: 264 Skipped: 6



CELEBRATING FAITH LEADERSHIP



Left: Holy Cross Lutheran and Sayeda Khadija Centre Recipients with Christina Read (2014)

Right: Westdale United Church, Hamilton



Each year, FCG presents Green Sacred Space awards to recognize and celebrate those faith communities that have achieved excellence in greening their sacred spaces, as well as engaging community to do the same.

Other 2014 recipient was Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, Hamilton. See link to watch videos for 2014 GSS Awards recipients.

<http://bit.ly/1KwZqR2>

GREEN CERTIFICATION

We launched an easy to use, online "Green Certification" tool. Why Certification? You can't change what you don't measure! The Greening Sacred Spaces Certification program recognizes, celebrates and motivates faith communities who demonstrate commitment in the care of the environment through action. Whether you are just getting started or are ready for the next level of greening, the Greening Sacred Spaces Certification program is an excellent way to engage your faith community in stewardship and showcase what you have accomplished together. Read more here:

<http://bit.ly/1Mt9ywl>

Why Certification?

You can't change what you don't measure!

The **Greening Sacred Spaces Certification** program recognizes, celebrates and motivates faith communities who demonstrate commitment in the care of the environment through action.

Whether you are just getting started or are ready for the next level of greening, the Greening Sacred Spaces Certification program is an excellent way to engage your faith community in stewardship and showcase what you have accomplished together.

Receive recognition for the greening efforts that your faith community undertakes, no matter how big or small.

Celebrate and motivate! Our Certification program is a measurable way to motivate for action.

Be inspired by what is possible!

How it works:

Use our Certification checklist to assess your congregation's greening journey, in categories of action and achievement levels that fit a wide variety of faith traditions and worship spaces.



Above: St Mark's Anglican Church in Brantford received Deep Green Certification. [Learn more here.](#)



Decide which level your faith community wishes to apply for: Light Green, Medium Green or Deep Green status. Light Green is a prerequisite for Medium Green, and Medium Green is a prerequisite for Deep Green.

List of possible actions in categories such as Community, Energy, and Environment. List for Certification once you have completed a minimum of 10 in or Deep Green.

Review with your Green Team or committee prior to submitting your

Optimized using
trial version
www.balesio.com

CELEBRATING FAITH LEADERSHIP

CELEBRATE YOUR GREENING EFFORTS

with Greening Sacred Spaces

IN THE NEWS

- Divestment or what? *Clean Energy Canada* <http://bit.ly/1HDvIX2>
- Community support: Extreme Weather Resilience *CBC Metro Morning* <http://bit.ly/1DkTeX3>
- Looking forward to the implementation of waste recycling. *Fo Guang Shan Temple, Toronto Website* <http://bit.ly/1Kb9Zvx>
- Calgary faith leaders want to save the earth. *Western Catholic Reporter* <http://bit.ly/1MwRnUe>
- Annual Interfaith Dinner, Calgary. *Intercultural Institute Dialogue* <http://bit.ly/1J397rq>
- Tending to his flock, and his churches: Aging buildings, energy costs raise concern for ministries. *Winnipeg Free Press* <http://bit.ly/1MdZGMr>
- Eastminster United Church divest from fossil fuel investments. *InsideToronto.com* <http://bit.ly/1f8A9kU>
- Resilient City: Preparing for Climate Change *City of Toronto* <http://bit.ly/1nBWj2X>
- Greening Sacred Spaces: A local, environmental study group. *InsideBelleville.com* <http://bit.ly/1DjBF9K>
- Sacred water Gathering. *The PeterboroughExaminer.com* <http://bit.ly/1fNgoiV>
- Sacred water gathering: May 2-4 *The PeterboroughExaminer.com* <http://bit.ly/1CGdiMX>
- A Testament to Multifaith Collaboration. *Irqa.com* <http://bit.ly/1HZokaM>
- Public Heroes Awards Ceremony. *Intercultural Dialogue Institute* <http://bit.ly/1exGiXI>
- Case Study #2 *National Trust Canada.ca* <http://bit.ly/1KwZ64x>



Optimized using
trial version
www.balesio.com

FINANCES

REVENUE

Grants and foundations	107,818
Donations	16,946
Corporate and NGO contributions	37,882
Publications and green audit fees	14,854
Other income	14
	\$177,514

EXPENSES

PROGRAM

Green audits	10,692
Partnerships and promotion	76,818
Travel	281
Website	4,771
Workshops and events	1,159
Staff and contractors	72,797
Program Total	\$166,518

ADMINISTRATION

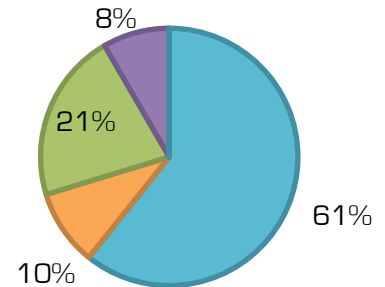
Personnel	8,000
Insurance	2,217
Office expenses	1,005
Partner administration	1,667
Professional services	3,638
T	180
F	2,512
A	\$19,219



Optimized using
trial version
www.balesio.com

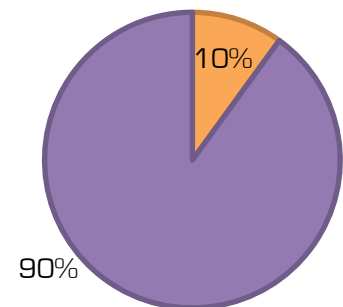
2	\$58,628
----------	-----------------

REVENUE



- Grants and foundations
- Donations
- Corporate and NGO contributions
- Publications and green audit fees
- Other income

EXPENSES



- Admin
- Program

CONTACT US

FCG'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 and Janet Speth.

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.

Bio's for the team can be found on our website at

<http://greeningsacredspaces.net/about-us/our-team/>

CONTACT US

Faith & the Common Good
(Greening Sacred Spaces)
@ Centre for Social Innovation.
Suite 400, 215 Spadina Ave.,
Toronto, ON M5T 2C7
Tel: 1-866 231 1877

www.greeningsacredspaces.net

[www.facebook.com/
FCGGreeningSacredSpaces](http://www.facebook.com/FCGGreeningSacredSpaces)



Optimized using
trial version
www.balesio.com

