









2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Above: Teaming up with Toronto Global Shapers & TakingITGlobal to explore faithbased sustainability practices in the GTA – Jaffari Community Centre, Toronto Hare Krishna Temple, Shoresh's Kavanah Garden, St Gabriel's Passionist Parish, Ismaili Centre Toronto and Aga Khan Museum.



OUR MISSION

We support diverse faith and spiritual communities contribute to greener, healthier, more resilient neighbourhoods.

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2016 HIGHLIGHTS



4,000-6,500 Page views per month 800-1,500 Website users per month

Website Subscribers 385



150 +**Green Events & Actions**



10,000+**Event & Action Participants**

Active Faith 800 **Communities**

Faith Traditions Represented

- 11 Faith Building Audits
 - **Green Certifications**
 - 4 Green Sacred Space Awards





Individual Award



25 Blog posts

21 Media articles

Newsletter Subscribers

2,450

(with a 25-35% open rate)



Facebook Likes

855

(20% more than 2015)



880

Twitter Followers

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER



Together we are stronger...

Faith communities contribute to the well-being of neighbourhoods and communities across the country, but we can do a better job of it when we partner with other groups.

2016 was a year where we heightened collaborations with community stakeholders in an effort to build a stronger network towards a more sustainable, more just Canada.

In this report, we are excited to share updates about the work we've been doing to this end, highlighting the connections and relationships we've made over the year.

From partnering with the National Trust for Canada on how to regenerate places of worship, and working with the United Church of Canada and BuildGreen Solutions to track and reduce carbon at church, to learning how to become good allies to Indigenous people and take their lead when it comes to climate action, the past year was one of forging new relations and strengthening older ones.

As always, my hope is that our 2016 Annual report will inspire your faith community to bigger and bolder action.

Lucy Cummings

Executive Director, Faith & the Common Good

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue's Greening Committee presents a joint program on

Emergency Preparedness

Wednesday June 1st

Led by Boris Rosolak from the City of Toronto's Office of **Emergency Management.** Preparing your Faith Community for an Extreme Weather Event - Part 3.

Eastminster United Church 310 Danforth Avenue. 6:30 - 8:30 pm

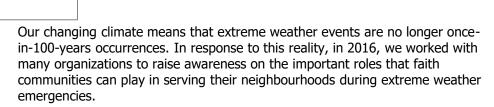
No Charge. All Welcome. Kosher Refreshments provided.

0:30 - 0:40 pm - Wickenia (Add Pina) of the American (Add Pina) of the Payand (Add Pina) of the









We undertook much of this work in collaboration with out partners at CLARION (Community-Led Action for Resiliency in Our Neighbourhoods, www.clarionhub.ca), a cross-sectoral, voluntary coalition working to promote community-based emergency preparedness and climate adaptation hubs at the neighbourhood level across Canada.

- In February, we told the story in a workshop at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities: Sustainable Communities Conference in Ottawa.
- In June, as part of our collaboration with CLARION, we co-hosted a pioneering event along with the Institute of Public Administration Canada (IPAC) to engage multi-sectoral stakeholders in new thinking around local community response to natural disasters. To do this, we introduced a role-play simulation (adapted from the City of San Francisco's Neighborhood Engagement Network) called Resilientville.
- In September, we presented in Halifax at the 2016 Livable Cities Forum: Changing Climate, Changing Communities, hosted by Halifax Regional Municipality in partnership with the Partners for Action Network and ICLEI Canada.

Finally, we worked closely with the City of Toronto's Office of Emergency Management to support Toronto Area faith communities who have committed to serving climate vulnerable neighbours during extreme weather emergencies.

Above left: Emergency Preparedness workshop at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda, synagogue, Toronto.

Above right: Donna Lang presents a cheque towards supplies to Eastminster United Church, a designated resilience hub. L to R: Donna Lang, Gloria McPherson, coordinator for their Out of the Cold program, Rev. Sarah Boucier Miller, and Gerald Gordon, Building Manager.



REGENERATION WORKS: PLACES OF FAITH



Above left: Regeneration Works and Partners for Sacred Places at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Hamilton, ON during the National Trust for Canada Conference (October 2016).

Above right: All Saints Ottawa.

Below right: *The Raw Carrot at Paris Presbyterian Church, Paris, ON.*

Below left: *Farmers' Market at Toronto's Hare Krishna Temple.*



ENHANCING THE "MISSION PER SQUARE FOOT" OF FAITH BUILDINGS

In 2016, along with our partners at The National Trust for Canada, we continued to build our capacity around supporting a growing number of faith communities who are struggling to keep their doors open. These important community assets are in a period of transition across the country. How can congregations continue to enhance their building's "mission per square foot" in order to contribute in a positive way to their communities?

- Working with the Rural Ontario Institute, we received Ontario Trillium Foundation funding to develop and evaluate tools with the goal of supporting small and rural communities to work together to turn the crisis of endangered faith buildings into an opportunity for community development.
- We conducted a half-day workshop at the National Trust for Canada conference in Hamilton, ON on Faith Building Usage and Adaptive Reuse.
- We also conducted a day-long consultation with the Spire of Sydenham in Kingston, ON focused on helping them think through a governance structure for their new social enterprise.
- In Ottawa, along with our partners, Greening Sacred Spaces Ottawa held a dynamic workshop at All Saints Ottawa (the former All Saints Anglican Church) in Sandy Hill. Participants learned about the key elements of regenerating a place of faith. Thanks to the Community Foundation of Ottawa for sponsoring this event.



GREEN AUDITS



Above left: "Green Audit" public event at St. Mark's Anglican Church, Brantford, ON.

Above right: *Insulation on belfry hatch, walls and floor at St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Crapaud, PEI.*

Below: St Philip's African Orthodox and St Columba's Presbyterian were two of the churches who took part in the Cape Breton Green Audit program. Across Canada, our comprehensive, walk-through faith building Green Audit supported dozens of faith communities to lower the environmental footprint and improve the "mission per square foot" of their properties.

In partnership with our Green Audit, the Anglican Church of Canada offered dioceses an opportunity to receive a grant to complete a holistic audit of their churches, including energy, water, and waste. 19 Anglican Parishes across Canada participated in FCG's Green Building Audit between 2014 and 2015, and in 2016, most of these parishes had much to show for it in terms of retrofits and upgrading. As well, most completed public events to showcase the audit.

In Cape Breton, we teamed up with Cape Breton University's Tompkins Institute, the Sydney Architectural Conservation Society, and Ecology Action Centre (Halifax) to deliver a Green Audit program to support Cape Breton faith communities to conserve energy, lower operational costs, seek out community partners (program and financial) to support sustainability goals, and share learnings with the larger community.





CLIMATE ACTION



Ottawa Presbytery's Project Footprint team



Above left: The Ottawa

Presbytery of the United Church of Canada was a pilot site for our 2016 Carbon Baseline project.

Above right: Green Beginnings workshop. Toronto, ON.

Below: Climate action workshops at St. Joan of Arc Hall in Toronto, ON and Centretown United in Ottawa, ON.

Climate change action needs all the collaborations it can get. Supporting faith communities to lower their carbon footprint continues to be a primary focus of our work and we found many ways to do so.

We organized, participated in, and presented at a wide array of climate action forums across our network. One of the most interesting opportunities happened at the North American Muslim Foundation (NAMF) workshop. Donna Lang presented *Green Beginnings* to children in grades 5 to 8 from NAMF, in Willowdale, ON. We also discussed ways that the students could help to mitigate climate change, practice water and energy conservation, plant edible and pollinator gardens, and limit the amount of waste that they throw out in the garbage.

UCC Carbon Baseline Analysis

Since 2000, the United Church of Canada (UCC) has called upon its leaders, bodies, and congregants to assume their respective responsibilities to take more urgent and intentional action on climate change. The energy used to light and heat UCC places of worship is one of the biggest contributors to its carbon footprint, and also one of its biggest expenses. We were honoured to work with the UCC, along with our partner BuildGreen Solutions, to assess the carbon output of the UCC property portfolio as a first step to determine how to bring about a reduction in its overall carbon footprint.



(one block east of Keele subway, on south corner)

de products will be available for purchase and light refreshments will be serve

munity gardens and planning retroft and microfit

here is a nobility in the duty to cave for creation through little duily actions, and it is wo one education can bring about real changes in lifestyle. (Pape Francis, LAUDATO 3/ 217)

eth, a Sister of St. Joseph of Toronto and e Common Good, will discuss spiritual gu your feith?"

nna is the Toronto Coordinator for Faith & the Common Good. Th gram, Greening Sacred Spaces, has helped over 200 faith murribes in Toronto go green by developing 'Green teems', impr efficiency of roligious buildings, creating edible



Centretown United Church, Ottawa

CLIMATE ACTION (con't)





Above left: *University* of Toronto's Dr. Tanhum Yoreh presenting to the Climate Change & Faith Town Hall, Mary Ward Centre, Toronto, ON.

Above right: Poster, Spiritually Rooted Direct Action Training, Vancouver, BC.

Below: Fossil Free Faith's Maisaloon Al-Ashkar was one of our quest bloggers.



Fossil Free Faith Youth from our Vancouver-based partner, Fossil Free Faith, contributed blog posts to our website, describing the different actions they are taking towards a kinder, more sustainable world. Here are some samples of what they had to say:

http://bit.ly/2un0nfF http://bit.ly/1Qr1mKW http://bit.ly/2sU8tIf

Divestment Fossil Free Faith continues to encourage conversations about fossil fuel divestment, and to support folks who are moving those conversations forward within their diverse faith communities. As with FCG, the Fossil Free Faith group spent 2016 consulting with those in their network, partner organizations, and allies, to imagine how to be useful in propelling systemic and spiritually-grounded action for climate justice.

Spiritually Rooted Direct Action Training

In April, Fossil Free Faith partnered with Salal & Cedar Anglican community, 350.org and Greenpeace to host a non-violent directaction training at the Canadian Memorial United Church in Vancouver, specifically for people of faith.

In May, Fossil Free Faith participated in the global climate movement, rallying in massive peaceful resistance designed to slow the extraction of fossil fuels in Burnaby Mountain and the Kinder Morgan pipeline.



Above left: Elder Myeengun Henry in front of speakers' table and wampum belt display.

Above right: *Good-hearted Women Singers, Climate Justice & Indigenous Allyship Forum, Waterloo, ON.*

Below: Métis Artist 4 Change Don Skillen graciously allowed us to use his beautiful "Salmon" to symbolize the renewal we strive for in our relations with each other and Mother Earth.



"Mitakuye Oyasin. All my relations." Lakota Nation.

It's about relationships. We were deeply honoured to learn directly from Indigenous people the meaning of allyship and that we need to return to the original relationships when it comes to climate justice. That was the repeated message heard at our 2016 forum *Climate Justice and Indigenous Allyship*, hosted in Waterloo, ON in partnership with Divest Waterloo, the Sacred Water Circle, the Green Awakening Network, and the Centre for Public Ethics at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. These relationships involve taking care of Mother Earth in tandem with revisiting the cordial, peaceful beginnings of our settlers and first peoples' interactions.

One of the keynote speakers was Indigenous Traditional Counselor, Elder Myeengun Henry, from Chippewa of the Thames First Nation (near London, ON). Elder Henry emphasized that Canada must live up to the constitution; first peoples have to have veto power within their traditional territories. This is a requirement of allyship moving forward. The land has to be returned. To be an ally then means to honour those initial relationships and treaties.

Other speakers included Sherri Longboat (Six Nations of the Grand River near London, ON), Kelly Laurila (drum keeper of Mino Ode Kwewak N'Gamowak), Chemical Valley Sarnia land-defender, Lindsay Gray of the Aamjiwnaang Nation, and Leah Gazan (Wood Mountain Lakota Nation), founder of #WeCare aimed at ending violence against Indigenous women and girls. Non-indigenous speakers included Byron Williston, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Wilfrid Laurier University, John Dillon, Ecological Economy Coordinator at KAIROS, and Mardi Tindal, former Moderator of the United Church of Canada.

We were grateful for funding support from the Justice & Reconciliation Fund of the United Church of Canada to hold this forum.

GARDENS GROW COMMUNITY



Above left: *Accessibility* garden at The Riverwood Conservancy, Mississauga, ON.

Above centre: Tour of The Riverwood Conservancy, Mississauga, ON.

Above right: *Harvesting* workshop, Erin Mills Church Campus, Mississauga, ON.

Below Right:

Discussions on Sikh faith, spirituality, and KarmaGrow. Ontario Khalsa Darbar, Mississauga, ON.

Below left: Community garden at St. Christopher's Anglican Church, Burlington, ON.



In 2016, the Greening Sacred Spaces Halton-Peel chapter, based at the Halton Environmental Network, received a one-year grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to create a new focus around outdoor greening, gardening, and eco-spirituality at faith communities.

A series of workshops explored various aspects of gardening at faith communities throughout the region.

- The series started with a Mind, Body & Spirit Garden Tour featuring the multiple gardens at The Riverwood Conservancy in Mississauga.
- A walking tour of three downtown Oakville church gardens was held on a beautiful summer evening, featuring a talk by a representative of Credit Valley Conservation.
- A harvesting workshop was held at Erin Mills Church Campus, Mississauga. Participants learned about the site's community garden and harvested vegetables for a shared salad.
- In conjunction with KarmaGrow (a local food bank), a visit to the worship space and gardens of the Ontario Khalsa Darbar featured discussion of eco-spirituality and how their faiths connect them to the environment and gardening.
- The year ended with Putting Your Garden to Bed, at St. Christopher's Anglican Church in Burlington. The presentation was by Sean James of Fern Ridge Landscaping. Participants shared multi-faith blessings before the hands-on experience in the community garden.



CELEBRATING FAITH ROLE MODELS

Right: Terrylynn Brant speaks at the GSS awards ceremony held at Church of the Incarnation, Oakville, ON.

Below top: Award winner Applewood United Church.

Below centre: Award winner Unitarian Congregation in Mississauga.

Below bottom: Award winner Sheng Shen Catholic Church.









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. The awards presentations provide a networking opportunity for attendees to share ideas.

In 2016 the following chapters celebrated:

Halton-Peel Green Awards Night & Networking Event took place in May at Church of the Incarnation (Oakville, ON). The event featured Terrylynn Brant, Seed Keeper from the Mohawk Nation Turtle Clan at Six Nations. Awards were presented to the Unitarian Congregation in Mississauga and Applewood United Church, Mississauga.

Kevin Flynn, MPP for Oakville, presented the awards to the winning faith communities. He also addressed the recent apology the Government of Ontario had issued for the brutalities committed for generations at residential schools and the continued harm this abuse has caused to Indigenous cultures, communities, families, and individuals.

Greening Sacred Spaces Ottawa's awards ceremony was also in May. Award winners were Sheng Shen (Holy Spirit) Catholic Church and St. Luke's Anglican Church. St. Luke's was where the term "Mission per Square Foot" was coined. The entire youth group of Sheng Shen was there to receive the award.

Also, the first ever individual award went to Dr. Lenore Fahrig for the outstanding sustainable leadership that she has given on faith group divestment of shares in carbon intensive companies.

INTERFAITH SUSTAINABILITY TOURS







Two of our chapters organized sustainability tours by bus in 2016. Both tours explored how different faith groups are working towards more sustainable and healthier communities, from eco-spiritual practices and local food systems to green architecture and gardening initiatives.

Toronto's tour, held in May, included stops at Shoresh's Kavanah Garden, St. Gabriel's Catholic Church, Hare Krishna Temple, Ismaili Centre, Aga Khan Museum, and Jaffari Community Centre.

Halton-Peel's tour, held in October, included stops at The Grange (Heritage Mississauga), Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Temple, the Unitarian Congregation in Mississauga, and Solel Synagogue.

Above (clockwise from upper left): Mississauga tour poster, Unitarian Congregation in Mississauga rain garden, Fo Guang Shan Temple edible garden.

Right: (clockwise from upper left) Toronto bus tour visited Shoresh sustainable gardens, Hare Krishna Temple, St. Gabriel's Catholic Church, Jaffari Community Centre, and the Ismaili Centre, Aga Khan Museum.











FCG IN THE NEWS

Besides our monthly articles on our blog (http://greeningsacredspaces.net/news/blog/), we have had much media coverage country-wide:

Jan. 2016

Sudbury dome church nearing completion http://bit.ly/276iNMx (Northern Ontario Business) Dominion-Chalmers seeks new path: Is a community centre for the arts in landmark church's future? http://bit.ly/2tyYVXN (Ottawa Citizen)

Feb. 2016

Eco-Spirituality Trip to Costa Rica http://bit.ly/2sEp4Qq (St. Andrew's United Church bloq) Faithful action on climate change http://bit.ly/1T2GQgb (Christian Week) Sustainable Cities and Social Capital: Common Dilemmas and Hopes http://bit.ly/2sEv2ke (Convivium)

March 2016

Climate Justice – Faithfully Responding http://bit.ly/2tY6LZk (United Church of Canada)

April 2016

Green Anglican Churches with Green Audits http://bit.ly/2uAaQnC (OurPower) Greening Sacred Spaces – Sacred Connections Through Water http://bit.ly/2vjNKiE (Sisters of St. Joseph)

May 2016

Sandy Hill's All Saints Church remade into community hub http://bit.ly/2qSC1od (Ottawa Citizen)

June 2016

Local faith community buildings can be extreme weather resiliency hubs http://bit.ly/2vKxcQy (CREW Toronto)

Indigenous Allyship Forum http://bit.ly/2tNnBdC (Waterloo Chronicle)

Indigenous Allyship Forum http://bit.ly/2sUr0Ej (Morning Post Exchange)

Dealing with climate change part of our moral duty http://bit.ly/2tXGrPX (Ottawa Sun)

Interfaith Sustainability Bus Tour: Promoting acceptance through dialogue http://bit.ly/2vbDTOi (SocialConnectedness.org)

July 2016

Faith Missions and Church Redevelopment in Ottawa, ON http://bit.ly/2eDHSx4 (Canadian Journal of Urban Research, Vol 25, No 1, pp 80-87)

Oakville's Greening Sacred Spaces receives \$45K Trillium grant http://bit.ly/2u7IpxN (Inside Halton)

Aug. 2016

GSS Garden Tour & Harvesting Workshop http://bit.ly/2uQFs4h (Snapd North Mississauga)

Sept.-Nov. 2016

Greening Sacred Spaces issue http://bit.ly/2u0LGOs (PEN Insider)

Nov. 2016

Are we prepared for changing and extreme weather? http://bit.ly/2t2Z40k (Hamilton Spectator) Greening Sacred Spaces workshop organized http://bit.ly/2u0VHuW (Cape Breton Post)

Dec. 2016

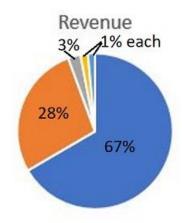
Greening Sacred Spaces Certification Program http://bit.ly/2gSAw9C (Green Living Ottawa)

2016 FINANCES

REVENUE	
Grants and foundations	149,945
Fee-for-service and publications	62,551
Donations	5,843
Corporate and NGO contributions	3,462
Other income	3,328
Total Revenue	\$225,129

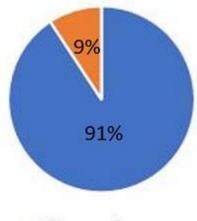
PROGRAM EXPENSES	
Personnel	99,042
Partnerships and promotion	82,080
Workshops and events	11,698
Travel	6,092
Green audits	5,950
Website and video	1,175
Total Program Expenses	\$206, 037

ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	
Personnel	11,250
Professional services	3,396
Insurance	2,833
Office expenses	1,889
Rent and telecommunications	1,668
Total Administration Expenses	\$21,036



- Grants and Foundations
- Fee for service and publications
- Donations
- Corporate & NGO contribution
- Other Income

Expenses



- Program Expenses
- Administration

OUR TEAM





Above left: *Part of the team visits the Scarborough Bluffs, Toronto, ON.*

Above right: *Team* retreat at Scarboro Missions, Toronto, ON.

FCG's accomplishments are made possible due to the passion, hard work, and talent of its terrific team of staff, animators, board members, and volunteers in many cities and regions. In November 2016, we gathered for a retreat at Scarboro Missions in Toronto, exploring how to be a better organization, examining challenges and opportunities for the new year.

We couldn't list everyone here, but our deep thanks to all!

Board of Directors

Randal Goodfellow (Chair), Ayal Lesh, LoriAnn Girvan, David MacDonald, Bill Phipps, Garth Schmalenburg, Azim Shamshiev, Janet Speth, and Peter Wilkins

Animation Team

Lucy Cummings (Executive Director), Ramsha Ahmed, Christine Boyle, Diana Brushey, Adriana Chang, Stephen Collette, Rebecca Danard, John Dorner, Beatrice Ekwa Ekoko, Katherine Forster, Kendra Fry, Laura Hamilton, Andrew Hurrell, Kristina Inrig, Donna Lang, Kim Maxwell, Emma Norton, David Patterson, Lisa Seiler

Bios for the team can be found on our website at http://greeningsacredspaces.net/about-us/our-team/

CONTACT US

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www.faithcommongood.org

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www.twitter.com/FaithCommonGood

www.instagram.com/faithcommongood/ (since 2016)

