

## REDUCE YOUR ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

# Faith Community Tips

**“Every choice you make contributes to the health of the planet, for better or worse. Even a small reduction in your consumption of natural products can make the difference between what's lost and what's saved.”**

Conservation International, 2012.

### Energy Tips:

- Visit [www.saveonenergy.ca](http://www.saveonenergy.ca) to learn about Small Business Lighting and Retrofit Incentives.
- Install automatic lights or dimming switches.
- Install a programmable thermostat with a built-in timer.
- Use a portable fan and/or ceiling fan in conjunction with your air conditioner.
- Purchase Energy Star appliances.
- Conduct an energy audit yourself or hire a professional.
- Check out the Greening Sacred Spaces “Practical Guide to Improving the Energy Efficiency of your Religious Building” on the Greening Sacred Spaces website.

### Water Tips:

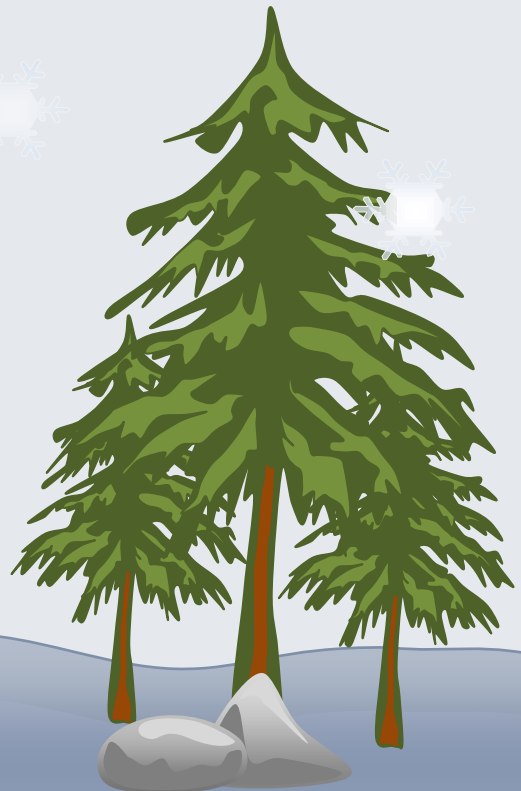
- Check for water leaks indoors and outdoors (e.g. toilets, sinks, water heater, hoses, and sprinklers).
- Visit [www.peelregion.ca/watersmartpeel](http://www.peelregion.ca/watersmartpeel) to learn about Toilet replacement incentives and water audits.
- Invest in automatic faucets.
- Learn about Fusion landscaping and/or xeriscaping.
- Invest in rain barrels for outdoor water use.
- Water your lawn and garden in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation.

### Transportation Tips:

- Promote sustainable transportation choices:
  - Public transit,
  - Carpool,
  - Ride a bike or walk.
- Host a bicycle tune-up event and promote safe riding.
- Install bike racks at your worship building.
- Have a get to worship without your car challenge for your community.
- Post a carpool sign-up board to encourage neighbours to carpool to worship.

### Food Tips:

- Support Ontario farmers by purchasing locally grown foods for community events.
- Establish a community garden on the property
- Create a gardening team.
- Host a dinner to feed community members.
- Act as a distribution location for food baskets.
- Host a food fair to promote local food.



## REDUCE YOUR ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

# Faith Community Tips

### Waste Management:

- **Reduce Consumption**
  - Invest in reusable dinnerware for events (plates, bowls, cups, and utensils)
  - Ban disposable water bottles and promote lug-a-mug events (bring your own cup).
  - Buy items in bulk and avoid individually wrapped items.
  - Make double sided copies when you have to print (adjust printer settings)
- **Reuse Materials**
  - Borrow and/or lend out infrequently used items.
  - Host donation events for toys, glasses, books, clothing, furniture, and appliances.
- **Recycle** (when you cannot reduce or reuse).
  - Post recycling and composting signs (these can be obtained from your region).
  - Host an E-waste event and raise money: visit [www.recycleyourelectronics.ca](http://www.recycleyourelectronics.ca)
- **Compost**
  - Do-It-Yourself and add richness to your gardens.
  - Include a compost in the washroom for paper towels!

### Offset your Ecological Footprint:

- Host a native tree planting event on or off your property.
- Organize a clean-up event.
- Consider an investment in renewable energy.

Many thanks to Christina Read, Greening Sacred Spaces Halton – Peel Coordinator for allowing us to adapt this brochure.

For more information, please contact Donna Lang, Toronto Greening Sacred Spaces Coordinator 416-481-1327

[dlang@faith-commongood.net](mailto:dlang@faith-commongood.net)

[www.greeningsacredspaces.net](http://www.greeningsacredspaces.net)

### Online Resources:

- David Suzuki Foundation
  - [www.davidsuzuki.org](http://www.davidsuzuki.org)
- Global Ecological Footprint Network
  - [www.footprintnetwork.org](http://www.footprintnetwork.org)
- Nature Conservancy
  - [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)
- The Story of Stuff
  - [www.storyofstuff.org](http://www.storyofstuff.org)
- Riversides
  - [www.riversides.org](http://www.riversides.org)
- We Conserve
  - [www.weconserve.ca](http://www.weconserve.ca)

### Community Resources:

- EcoSource
  - [www.ecosource.ca](http://www.ecosource.ca)
- City of Toronto
  - [www.toronto.ca/garbage](http://www.toronto.ca/garbage)
  - [www.cityoftoronto.ca/water](http://www.cityoftoronto.ca/water)
- Live Green Toronto
  - [www.toronto.ca/livegreen.index](http://www.toronto.ca/livegreen.index)
- Halton Environmental Network
  - [www.haltonenvironment.ca](http://www.haltonenvironment.ca)

