

Holy Trinity Church, Thornhill, Ontario Greening Case Study



Mission and Background: We are a vibrant, Christian community. We are located at Yonge and Centre Streets in the Village of Thornhill, City of Vaughan, worshipping and serving our community since 1830. A heritage building, we have over 22, 000 “Sq. ft.” of space that is regularly used by the congregation, a pre-school and numerous community groups.

In 2015, the Diocese asked each parish to learn more and act faithfully on climate change. At our annual VESTRY, held in February, a MOTION was passed to support the Diocese’s Advocacy at the provincial and federal government level for effective policy on climate change.

We recognized that the main source of our Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and operating costs relate to faith building energy consumption. This led us to decide to investigate opportunities and consider suggestions from parishioners to reduce our carbon footprint over the next year and report results and recommendations for future action to VESTRY and the congregation, at large

Actions: In 2016, we formed a Green Team and appointed a “chair”. Our initial task was to analyze our energy

consumption, identify our building assets, and participate in a green audit. The audit was done by Stephen Collette (Faith & the Common Good/ Greening Sacred Spaces), and following the audit, we devised a master plan to determine how to prioritize actions (Low, Medium, High). We checked our progress, by tracking tasks, using Excel spreadsheets and then used timing and cost as our key measures. (Low, Medium, High), This helped us to identify our priorities.

Work to date has consisted of low hanging fruit. Measures include programmable thermostats; (locked and adjusted by HTC staff); upgrading LED light bulbs; fan covers in the balcony rooms (no one knew these legacy openings existed before the audit).



The covers were designed by a church member and installed with the help of fellow parishioners. This resulted in significant energy savings and keeps the parishioners who sit in the back pews very warm. All exterior lights have timers or light sensors, and door trim has now been upgraded on our exterior doors.

Lighting Retrofit Financial Information & Payback

Lighting:	Inside	Outside
Type:	LED	LED
Installer:	Lighting Solutions	Lighting Solutions
Financing:	Internal budget	Internal budget
Installed Cost:	\$14,500	\$3,200
Installed Cost after SaveOnEnergy Incentives:	\$ 9,800	\$2,800
Estimated Annual Savings:	\$1,200	\$6,000
Expected Payoff Period:	19 months	29 months

Benchmarking

Holy Trinity joined Faith & the Common Good's benchmarking program in February, 2018. We hope that by benchmarking our building's performance, we will learn best practices and share these with other congregations.

We have an action plan that we want to work towards but are waiting for incentive opportunities.

Lessons Learned:

Our early successes were accomplished over the last 18 months due to our very knowledgeable property manager,

custodian, and excellent contractors. This initiative is not a quick fix for all items. In fact, HTC has developed a ten-year plan whereby the very expensive items will be addressed and rectified. The team meets at least quarterly to review all initiatives and update the congregation, as needed. Member dedication and giving up of their time is a means to success.

Memorable Moment:

"Our initial "walkabout" with Stephen Collette. This is the moment that stays in my mind as the beginning of our future success in the Greening Project.

"I would like to take this time to thank our dedicated Group of volunteers who made this Greening Project possible. Our dedicated volunteers have been the reason we have been able to undergo green actions and will continue to do so."

Iverson Grimes, HTC's Greening Project Chairman

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