

## St. Brigid's Parish, Toronto

Rev. # 1 June 4, 2019

### Greening Case Study



**Mission and Background:** St. Brigid's Parish is a faith community that comes together through Christian ministry and community celebration. We live our faith through diversity, inclusion, compassion, justice and commitment. By welcoming, giving, and sharing, we demonstrate our faith in God, both within and beyond our Parish.

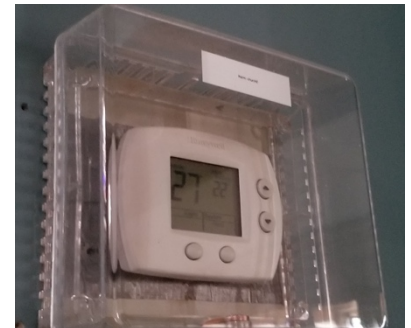
We are located in the Danforth (298 Wolverleigh Blvd) and have been worshipping and serving our community since 1927. St. Brigid Catholic School is located nearby.

Our building is 20,800 square feet of space, and is well used by our parishioners, school, and community groups. We run Out of the Cold (OOTC) and St. Vincent de Paul Society programs at our building. Our OOTC program provides safe refuge, hospitality and emergency shelter to the homeless community, every Monday night from April to November. St. Vincent de Paul Society volunteers provide home visits and education for those in need.

We have been actively seeking to reduce our footprint for the past 7 years. We do our best to reduce waste, promote recycling and composting, and have taken active steps to increase energy efficiency at our building.

#### Green Actions:

We have hosted two Faith & the Common Good (FCG) energy conservation and energy efficiency workshops, and has been a role model for other Catholic parishes in Toronto. We were the first faith community to sign up for the FCG energy benchmarking program, and volunteered to be a "guinea pig", while FCG "ironed out" the logistics of the program. As a result of this, other Catholic parishes have participated in the energy benchmarking program, and have also engaged in energy conservation and energy efficiency retrofits, at their respective buildings.



In 2016, we installed programmable thermostats, which helped reduce our gas consumption by 23% in 2016 (versus 2015). We believe that our gas consumption increased by 7% in 2017 (versus 2016), due to increased occupancy in our Church Hall. This is very good news, as we have been able to increase our rental income.

Annualized Comparisons	Baseline Year (2015)	2016	2017	% Change 2016 vs 2015	% Change 2017 vs 2016	% Change 2017 vs Baseline
Weather Normalized Site EUI (kBtu/ft²)	111.3	98.0	101.7	-12%	4%	-9%
Total Electricity (kWh)	37,144	37,771	35,092	2%	-7%	-6%
Total Natural Gas (m³)	65,712	50,642	54,277	-23%	7%	-17%
Total Direct GHG Emissions (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e)	123.9	95.8	102.5	-23%	7%	-17%
Total Energy Cost (\$)	\$28,247	\$22,580	\$24,383	-20%	8%	-14%

**Benchmarking** St. Brigid's parish was the 1st faith building in Toronto to sign up for the Energy Benchmarking Tracking Program! We were pleased to do this because we wanted to find out how we are doing, and also, how we can decrease our operating costs.

We were pleased to see that our hydro consumption decreased by 7% in 2017 (versus 2016); we attribute this to the fact that we did an LED lighting retrofit in our Church Hall and Sanctuary in 2017.



**Memorable Moments:** One memorable moment was when we realized that since renovating our Church Hall, we are getting more rentals. This is GOOD NEWS! The reno cost is being paid back and at the same time, we are increasing our rental income. The most memorable moment was when we found out we won the 2019 Greening Sacred Space Award; this is truly an honour and we are very pleased to receive it.

