



Attn: Faith Community selected for a Green Audit

Re: The United Church of Canada's Green Audit Pilot Program

Faith & the Common Good (FCG) and its Greening Sacred Spaces (GSS) program would like to thank you for your interest in the Green Audit Pilot Program. Your faith community has been selected by your UCC Conference to receive a Mission Support Capital Assistance Fund toward the cost of a Green Audit on your place of worship. Through this fund, GSS will conduct 100 Green Audits across Canada between June of 2011 and May of 2012. This program reinforces the United Church's commitment to fighting climate change and seeking a sustainable future by assisting congregations in lowering their energy expenditures and creating a healthier, more ecologically sustainable building.

About the Green Audit

The Green Audit involves a walk-through audit of your faith community building by a trained professional Green Auditor who identifies areas that could be greened within the building. This audit would take approximately three to four hours and members from the faith community are encouraged to come along.

The Green Audit will cover topics such as air quality, energy efficiency, water conservation, waste management, daily operations and maintenance. After the Green Audit is completed, the Green Auditor will create a report specifically tailored to your faith community that will include findings during the audit, with recommendations on how to improve the issues outlined. Colour photos are also included in the report to help faith community members understand the areas of opportunity. Along with the report will come other reference materials that committee members and staff can use to help turn the recommendations into actions.

The Green Audit Process

The Green Auditor will arrive at your faith community at a scheduled time. Faith community members and staff are encouraged to participate and gain hands-on insight into the process and the opportunities. Where feasible a blower door unit will be used to depressurize the building to help identify air leaks. The Green Auditor will walk around the building, room by room and look at where energy efficiency could be improved, where potential air quality concerns are, where water resources could be saved, where waste could be diverted, and where operations of the building could be improved to save money and efforts. The outcome of this walk-through will be a report that helps detail energy and money saving plus ways to make the building healthier and more sustainable in the long run. Priorities can then be set about which improvements to do and when.

After your Faith Community has had the Green Audit and had time to implement some recommendations, we will be looking for a brief summary of what you have done, by letter, pictures, videos or any other means to help celebrate your actions and achievements in greening your sacred space.

Matching the UCC Grant

In order to confirm your participation in the pilot program, The United Church of Canada and FCG request that your congregation commit a minimum of \$750 toward this initiative. This amount will match the \$750 grant provided by the UCC and will be used toward the audit cost (in the case of larger buildings) and/or toward retrofits and improvements based on the Audit report. We hope that once you see the Green Audit and have a list of priority actions, you may be able to commit even more funds to save energy and money for your faith community.

Facility Square Footage	Audit Cost	UCC Grant	Faith Communities Commitment	Contribution toward Audit Cost	Contribution toward Retrofits & improvements
< 6,500	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$0	\$750 +
6,500 to 12,000	\$1000	\$750	\$750	\$250	\$500 +
> 12,000	\$1250	\$750	\$750	\$500	\$250 +

Next Steps

If a Green Audit sounds right for your congregation please contact your Conference Executive Secretary, or the Conference person who contacted your Faith Community to be put on the list of interested congregations. We will be endeavoring to schedule your Green Audit during a 5-day period when the Auditor will travel to your region to train a local Auditor and conduct as many audits as possible during this period. We will not be able to reach all interested Faith Communities in the initial pilot program, so please do not wait to contact the appropriate person.

We will need to have the last year's data of energy consumption, gas, electricity, water, etc, with both the dollar figures and the consumption figures (m³, kWh, L, etc) prior to the Green Audit, so that we can help you begin to track these items, and ultimately reduce your consumption, and your footprint on the Earth. When we begin talking with you about booking dates, this will be the time to have that information on hand.

For more information about the Green Audit:

Faith Communities within Ontario: David Patterson at 647-274-3066 or dpatterson@faith-commongood.net
Faith Communities outside Ontario: Stephen Collette at 705-652-5159 (EST) or scollette@faith-commongood.net

If you are just learning about green building design and energy systems, we recommend that you and your green team/building managers browse through our FCG website at www.faith-commongood.net.

Our extensive GSS Resource Kit will prepare you to make the best use of the audit and follow up planning and green projects. Order GSS Resources from our website above, e-mail: info@faith-commongood.net or call: 1-866-231-1877 x103.

To join Greening Sacred Spaces please contact the GSS Network Coordinator, Diana Brushey, at 1-866-231-1877 x 102 or e-mail network@greeningsacredspaces.net.