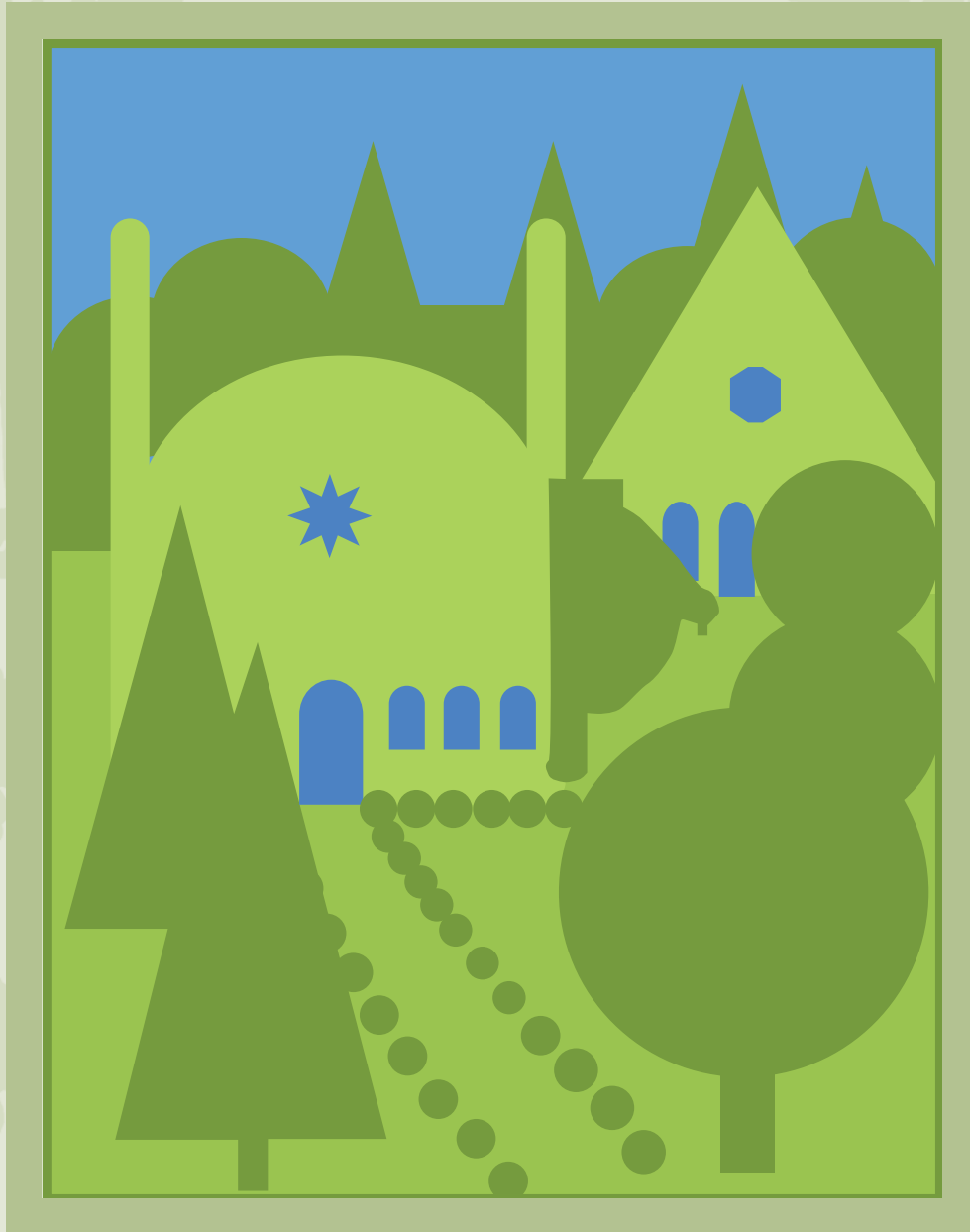


# A Guide to Developing a 'Green Team' in Your Faith Community



Faith & the  
Common  
Good

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# Introduction

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”*

MARGARET MEAD

We are strong believers in the power of small groups to change the world. Your efforts to live more sustainably, combined with others, send a powerful message to your faith community, neighbourhood, and beyond. It sends a message that you are increasingly living in a sacred balance with creation — a spiritually rewarding journey that opens us to the beauty, wonder, and responsibility of harmonious living with the Earth.

In this guide we look at the various changes you could put in place to make your faith community a greener place. But knowing and talking about things is not the same as actually doing them. That is what this guide is for — to help you get things done by examining the processes that you might use to realize your green vision. We’ll look at personal initiative as well as the art of joining with others to create a ‘Green Team’, and the kinds of activities your team could promote around your sacred space.

Getting organized, and doing organizing, has a lot to do with the small details of inviting people into a different way of thinking, being, and acting in the world. Helping people have the courage to change their behaviour and be open to a more sustainable future has proven to be a key ability of faith communities. In this guide we pay attention to the details of why and how your faith community can lead people into a healthier and more meaningful way of life for themselves and the planet.

The advice may seem simple but changing people’s hearts about an issue is different from changing their thinking. Most people are now aware that humans are seriously damaging the planet, however, having the courage and conviction to lessen their footprint can seem

an overwhelming challenge. Inviting people into a process that they can believe in, feel good about, and see the tangible results is proving to be the most effective way of implementing real change, and what better place to begin than through your faith community.

So here is our invitation to you to join with us at Faith & the Common Good in venturing into a new way of life that is greener, cleaner and filled with the beauty and awe of living in a sacred balance with creation.

## **The Power of One**

The most important change that you can accomplish is entirely within your means and control. It is the change you foster in yourself to become an ever-more successful promoter of a green agenda. It is about developing knowledge — the knowledge of how the world works, of how human society works, and of how you work. It is about developing skills — the skills needed to articulate your vision, to energize others and to implement plans. And, it is about becoming more active and learning how to make good things happen.

The path to personal green development is a long one, indeed life-long, however, it is a path that can give your life a deeper meaning and purpose, and help orient you in everything you do. Over time, you will discover what you are good at and what you enjoy doing, and this will help you find an optimal pace for your progress. Remember, you cannot change the world without changing yourself. As Gandhi said, become the change you wish to see in the world, and you will be an exemplar for others to follow.

## **Joining With Others**

You have made a commitment to yourself to do something to preserve and enhance the sacredness of creation. Now is the time to consider joining with others in your endeavours to ensure a sustainable future for your children's children. Within your place of worship there are undoubtedly many people who share your concerns and wish to do something.

If your faith community hasn't already established some kind of group to deal with environmental or social justice matters, you might want to create one. If one exists, you would do well to join it and help to recruit others. In either case, you will be trying to encourage people to work together.

One of the first things you need to do is to get to know the key people in your community — the opinion-leaders, the decision-makers, the accomplisners. In striking up conversations with them, you will gain a better understanding of where they're coming from, what they feel is important and what priorities they're currently focusing on. At the same time, you will be alerting them to your concerns, hopes and ideas. In making these friendly overtures, you will determine who best resonates with your thinking and who would be willing to help make your community greener. Regardless of how many of these key people you recruit, you'll have developed a good grounding in the way things work within your faith community.

A word to the wise; how you go about relating to others will make a big difference in how effective you will be. Most people have busy lives, their schedules filled with a variety of priorities. They will be inclined to join your team or otherwise participate in an activity if the activity is in line with their personal interests and goals, if they enjoy the company of the people engaged in it, and if they receive some emotional benefit from it. Also, time-limited projects allow busy people to make short-term commitments that they can honour in their busy schedule.



# Developing a ‘Green Team’

Greening a place of worship takes the conscious, committed and organized actions of people to accomplish meaningful change. While it is very difficult to achieve change by oneself, even the greatest challenges can seem easy when the workload is shared.

This guide refers to a group of people who are actively promoting a green agenda as a “Green Team”. But it doesn’t matter what you call yourselves — it could be the Environmental Committee, the Eco-Justice Group, the Earth Stewards, or anything else — what matters is that you are working together in a coordinated way to create a more sustainable set of values and lifestyle patterns between your faith community and the rest of creation. (We hope this also applies to your personal life.)

## Who Should Be On The Green Team?

The ideal Team would consist of people who have the time, skills, and motivation to green their sacred space. Time is important because it takes volunteer labour to coordinate a project or event, and just organizing a single meeting takes some effort. Skills that are important include leadership abilities, getting along with others, knowing how to conduct meetings, speaking and writing persuasively, planning, organizing and project management. The more motivated and enthusiastic one is, the better. After all, you must strive to motivate and enthuse others.

Outside of a core group of half a dozen or so people, the larger Green Team will likely fluctuate in its makeup depending on the work to be done at any particular time. The person who contributes an occasional article on a greening activity to the local bulletin or newsletter can be considered part of your Green Team network of supporters. Folks who have particular expertise in your community such as engineers, architects, planners, and so on, are good to have as part of this larger network. Likewise, representatives of the

Property, Finance, or Administrative Committees can provide guidance on projects such as implementing energy-saving retrofits. Certainly, anyone helping to green in any way should be acknowledged as part of your Green Team network.

## Involve Youth

The transition to a sustainable society will not happen overnight. It will take considerable time to wean humanity off reliance on fossil fuels and to adequately deal with the effects of climate change. This means it is vital to involve and energize the younger members of your congregation, for they are the pivotal generation upon whose shoulders the burdens of the ecological crisis are falling. We must do whatever we can to encourage and support them in their efforts to undo the damage and promote a sustainable future.



Green Facilitator Cecil Ramnauth of Devi Mandir, meets with GSS Green Team.

Whenever possible, therefore, try to reach out to your faith community’s youth groups and include them in your organizing efforts and creative eco-events. Younger people are more aware than ever of the seemingly bleak future they are heading into and they need moral encouragement in dealing with their fears and insecurities. They will be drawn to participate in the life of your faith community if they feel it is actively working to resolve the social and ecological issues that plague our planet. Give them a chance to act and you will give them a

reason to hope. Besides, the enthusiasm of youth is as infectious as it is bountiful.

It is the role of the core group, however, to promote the greening agenda. To them falls the responsibility of choosing activities, making plans, finding resources to make them happen, and coordinating people and communications. It can be a daunting task, but the stimulation and personal satisfaction, not to mention the personal friendships that typically evolve, can be ample rewards for greater involvement. (Note of caution, try not to do too much, too quickly or without enough support, or your efforts may not succeed as well as you'd like. The trick to avoiding burnout is to know your limitations and not to take on more responsibility than you can comfortably handle. Build flexibility and contingency plans into projects, and ensure that there are more than enough volunteers to carry each project out.)

### **Motivating People**

We often hear the frustrated plea, "Why don't people participate?" It may not have occurred to you that one reason they don't is because nobody's ever personally asked them to. It's easy to assume that if you don't have a lot of volunteering going on, people don't care. This generally isn't the case — most people are creatures of habit who don't make time to do new things unless prompted by another person. So be prepared to ask for things personally.

One of the most powerful motivators of action is a person's desire to follow through on their promises, particularly promises they've made to people they know personally. This is the root of all commitment, and if you really want to fix that commitment, try to make it a public one. This means posting or publishing people's names if they have pledged to contribute their time and resources to your worthy cause. Besides helping to build up the resolve of your volunteers, it helps create a feeling of identification, as well as providing a way to

## **ONLINE RESOURCES:**

### **[www.cbsm.com](http://www.cbsm.com)**

This site consists of six resources: an online guide which provides valuable information on the use of community-based social marketing (CBSM) to design and evaluate programs that foster sustainable behaviour; searchable databases of articles, cases, graphics, and downloadable reports on fostering sustainable behaviour, and discussion forums for sharing information and asking questions of others.

### **[www.goforgreen.ca/gardening/pdf/cbsm.pdf](http://www.goforgreen.ca/gardening/pdf/cbsm.pdf)**

A quick reference guide to CBSM

### **[www.nrtee-trnee.ca/Publications/PDF/Promoting-Sustainable-Future\\_E.PDF](http://www.nrtee-trnee.ca/Publications/PDF/Promoting-Sustainable-Future_E.PDF)**

Promoting a Sustainable Future: An Introduction to Community Based Social Marketing — a longer document on CBSM

### **[www.toolsofchange.com](http://www.toolsofchange.com)**

This website, founded on the principles of community-based social marketing, offers specific tools, case studies, and a planning guide for helping people take action and adopt habits that promote health and/or are more environmentally friendly.

### **[media.socialchange.net.au/strategy](http://media.socialchange.net.au/strategy)**

The Seven Doors Social Marketing Approach, a paper describing an approach to getting people to change their behaviours, focusing on seven areas: knowledge, desire, skills, optimism, facilitation, stimulation, and reinforcement.

### **[www.partnerships.org.uk/guide/index.htm](http://www.partnerships.org.uk/guide/index.htm)**

The Guide to Effective Participation by David Wilcox



publicly acknowledge or thank them for their help. Some places for this include newsletters, reports, minutes of meetings, bulletin boards, and websites.

After a while, people may internalize the green vision shared with them and become self-motivated, but everyone has to toddle before they can walk, and that requires a period of hand-holding. In the case of the Green Team, hand-holding means asking people to do small things first. Reading handouts on greening, signing a petition, making a small donation are all actions that require little effort. Later, they may spend more time on such things as attending a presentation or sending an e-mail or letter to a politician. At some point, they may be encouraged to help organize actions, or take on more substantial responsibilities.

## SOME TIPS

Ask new people to attend meetings as an observer — they'll be more likely to oblige than if they thought they might have to be an active participant right away.

Whenever you can, find out the following from each of your participants:

- What are they interested in?
- What skills do they have?
- Who do they know?
- Which resources might they be able to muster?
- How much time are they willing to contribute? When?
- What is their contact information?
- What role would they like to play?



# What Does a Green Team Do?

A Green Team's role is to help make its faith community and the rest of the world a greener, healthier more equitable place. It tries to accomplish this in three ways: *education*, *advocacy*, and *facilitating action*.

## Education

There are two aspects to educating people in your faith community about greening. One is to teach them about the problems, and the other is to teach them about the solutions. In general, identifying problems is a matter of showing the negative environmental and social consequences of human activities. Identifying solutions is a matter of showing what others are doing to overcome those problems. Wherever possible, don't dwell overmuch on the problems or you run the risk of making people despondent and frustrated, leading to a conscious or unconscious avoidance of your activities. Rather, by emphasizing the solutions you will encourage people to be positive, hopeful and willing to participate.

## TYPES OF ACTIVITIES

Some types of activities for raising awareness include:

- host a discussion group on a particular issue
- organize a presentation by outside experts
- create a special library for 'green' books and magazines
- show movies and videos (such as *Greening Sacred Spaces*)
- conduct field trips to natural settings or industrial sites (e.g., garbage dump, or sewage treatment plant)
- hold a workshop on how to green your home and lifestyle
- create an eco-curriculum for your spiritual classes for children
- encourage your faith leaders to emphasize eco-spirituality in their messages to the faithful

## HOLDING A WORKSHOP ON GREENING

Faith & the Common Good has produced a two-part outline for a workshop called *Greening Sacred Spaces — An Eco-Spiritual Workshop* for Canadian Religious Communities. You can find it online at <http://www.faith-commongood.net/gss/workshop.asp>. You can also invite a GSS Representative, if there is one in your area, to come to your place of worship and hold a workshop. See our website for a list of local reps.

By all means educate, for it is a vital step, but don't expect knowledge alone to bring about action. People need to be encouraged to do things that will make the world a better place. Our political leaders need the same encouragement, so be ready to advocate for social change.

## Advocacy

Advocacy here refers to the practice of persuading people to change their policies on how they do things. In other words, advocacy is democratic political action.

But isn't politics just a matter of personal choice? In many respects yes, but in order to avoid large-scale environmental degradation, the only choice we have is to change our socio-economic systems to harmonize them with our ecological systems. The key here is sustainability — we have to foster those actions that will reduce our impact on the Earth. With this concept as your guide, you can easily see that there are certain long-term solutions to problems that must be implemented, regardless of whether you voted Conservative or Green in the last election. It doesn't take much thought to see that obtaining our energy from clean, renewable sources such as solar or wind is more sustainable than continuing to grow our social infrastructure around polluting, finite resources such as fossil fuels.



## POLITICAL ADVOCACY

For the most part, political advocacy means working to change government policies, at the municipal, provincial and federal levels. If you feel that current laws or regulations are not promoting a greener society, and you think they should be replaced by ones that do, you can advocate to bring about that change. Faith communities have long been at the forefront of major political innovations — the abolition of slavery, the introduction of Medicare, the end of apartheid, to name a few. These days, people of faith are leaders in the campaign to stop climate change from causing irreparable damage to planet Earth, our common home.

How does one engage in political advocacy? This could entail any number of actions:

- writing letters to newspaper editors
- emailing politicians
- getting people to sign a petition
- donating to other groups working for the same changes
- organizing or participating in a street demonstration
- ensuring political candidates and parties have ecological issues in their policy platforms

Whatever you decide to do, remember to let everyone know about it and try to solicit as much support as you can. Part of that support will come from working with other advocacy groups and the media, so be sure to keep track of who is covering which issues and maintain good contact with them.

## CORPORATE ADVOCACY

Not all advocacy is aimed at governments. Increasingly, people are targeting corporate policies, as well. There is a growing trend to influence corporate behaviour through shareholder advocacy. If you, or your faith community, owns stock in a particular company that you think is not being ecologically responsible, you have the right as co-owners of that company to express your views and

submit policy resolutions at the company Annual General Meeting. Even if your resolution does not receive a majority vote (and most don't), management will frequently take your advice into account over time. For more information on this option, see <http://www.socialinvestment.ca/Socially%20Responsible%20Shareholdership.pdf>.

You might also consider organizing or joining a boycott of the products and services of companies with particularly egregious policies. Sometimes even the threat of negative publicity will cause companies to rethink their policies. Apparel companies Nike and Gap were once blacklisted for their involvement with sweatshop conditions in developing nations. After grassroots organizations mobilized public opinion against their lack of action, they saw the light. A decade of incremental policy changes later, they are now leaders in corporate social responsibility, their suppliers' factories have become models of good working conditions.

## EXAMPLES OF ADVOCACY ISSUES

Some examples of issues that require advocacy include:

Problem:	Greenhouse gas emissions leading to climate change
Possible solutions:	Promote energy conservation and alternative energy production (wind, solar, etc.)

Problem:	Civic landfills overflowing with garbage
Possible solutions:	Promote recycling and composting programs, advocate for incentives or regulations for reduced packaging, and promote reusables over disposable products

Problem:	Toxins in our environment
Possible	Push for elimination of

solutions: pesticides and other harmful chemicals on public properties and in industry

Problem: Smog

Possible solutions: Press politicians to increase funding for public transportation and more bike lanes

## ONLINE RESOURCE:

The Art of Advocacy — a short guide to influencing government policy-making. [www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/en/docs/pubs/AdvocacyHandbook-FIN2.pdf](http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/en/docs/pubs/AdvocacyHandbook-FIN2.pdf)

### LOCAL ADVOCACY

As the saying goes, “Physician, heal thyself”. If you are going to advocate for changes to policies, you should begin with the policies of your faith community itself. Doing so will make your sacred space a shining example to your faith community, your neighbourhood, and other religious institutions, convincing them to implement similar green changes. It will also give you valuable hands-on experience in local political processes, making you more effective in broader policy-making arenas.

The policies you choose to influence, and the ways you go about it, should be considered carefully by your Green Team, with an eye toward developing short, medium and long term plans to keep you focused. Local policy change can be as simple as convincing the people working in the administrative office to turn off their computers every night. Or it can be as challenging as persuading the congregation to include green criteria in their annual planning and budget-



The 'green team' doing a simple walk-through energy audit at Newtonbrook United Church in Toronto.

setting. (For a listing and discussion of policy changes that you might consider, see the ‘Other Activities’ section below.)

### Facilitating Action

Facilitating action is the primary function of your Green Team. All the talk in the world is ultimately useless if it doesn’t result in real, concrete changes. You have to “walk your talk” if you are to get to a greener space. If your Team is to grow in size, influence and effectiveness, you will have to get organized — this means planning and implementing projects that will make a difference in your community.

Nature abounds in cycles — birth and death, night and day, the changing seasons. So too should your efforts follow a cyclical pattern to help you become more and more effective. The pattern is simple: plan, do, review. That’s all there is to it. It’s the fundamental part of any self-organizing system, the feedback loop. You learn by thinking about what to do, doing it, and observing the results, then repeating the process.

### PLANNING

Planning is the way to turn your vision of the future into reality. The first task of your Green Team is to create a plan of action. This means setting goals and figuring out how to accomplish them. A good plan ensures that everyone agrees with the activities, knows what they are expected to do and when to do it, all the needed resources are anticipated beforehand, and the indicators of success are established.

It is a good exercise to set longer-term goals, covering a period of several years, if possible. This will help you work toward the ultimate goal, which is to have your faith community incorporate greening principles in all of their decision-making, from the most minor sub-committee deliberations to the major decisions made by the general council. This ideal, still not prevalent in practice, is something your

team can try to bring about over time.

Though the longer term is good to consider, for practical planning purposes it is usually best to concentrate on creating a one-year plan. Besides being a reasonable timeframe for most people, it has the additional advantage of allowing your events and actions to be more closely aligned with your faith community's annual scheduling and budgeting cycle.

It is a good idea to have a meeting to hear people's ideas on what is most needed, what they think is most 'doable', and what they'd like to work on over the coming year.

Some sample projects you might consider:

***Quick and easy:***

- set up and maintain a notice board for greening information and announcements (or acquire a place on the main bulletin board)
- replace Styrofoam cups and plates with ceramic, glass or metal ones
- subscribe to an environmental magazine
- write a letter to political leaders requesting more emphasis on energy conservation and renewable energy sources

***Within the year:***

- implement an energy audit of your sacred space
- set up some bike storage units on your property to promote bicycle commuting
- host an eco-fair and invite local green businesses to display their wares
- set up a workshop or two on how to live a green lifestyle
- bring in a speaker to do a presentation on climate change

***Multi-year:***

- proceed to implement all retrofits and changes recommended by the energy audit
- develop a community-wide planning and budgeting process based on green principles (e.g., looking at life-cycle costing)

- establish an educational program that offers a series of annual events (such as a Day of Prayer for the Earth)
- develop an eco-spirituality awareness program for the local school or daycare

**DOING**

Each of the various activities you have planned can be thought of as a sub-project of your annual plan. Like the larger plan, each of these sub-projects require the planning, implementation and assessment cycle in their own right.

***Communications***

One of the most important things that will be required is to establish a good system of communication — within your group, within your faith community, and with the 'outside' world. If you can, try to have your communication venues established beforehand, in the organizing/planning phase of any project you undertake.

Meetings are, of course, the primary way to communicate. Face-to-face interactions do more than just allow the sharing of ideas and information, they also provide the emotional 'glue' that holds a group together. Periodic gatherings are essential for keeping people motivated. People need emotional support and feedback in order to feel that their opinions and actions matter to others.

Keep your meetings friendly but task-focused — stick to an agenda, don't let the gatherings go on too long, and, if possible, keep minutes short, concise and clear with regards to decisions made and tasks assigned. Allow enough time, though, for some socializing — camaraderie is the glue that will hold your team together in bad times as well as good.

Between meetings, good communication is needed to coordinate activities and to keep people informed on how things are progressing. Telephones are quite useful, especially if telephone 'trees' are set up (i.e., one person

calls two others on a list, those two call two more, and so on until everyone on the list is contacted). So too are occasional printouts helpful, such as planning documents or issue backgrounders. These can be handed out at meetings, or since people are increasingly using e-mail to stay in touch, they can be disseminated electronically. If you want to have ongoing group communication via e-mail, though, be sure to have a way to include those who don't use computers, too.

It is very important to keep everyone in your faith community informed of your activities, not only to invite them to participate in individual events, but to make them more aware of your group and its organizing efforts. You can do this by:

- having periodic articles in your local newsletter
- having a section of the bulletin board or local website reserved for reporting on 'green actions'
- having your faith leaders mention your work to the congregation
- creating a brochure to hand out giving people information on your Green Team
- having an information table or putting up a sign or banner for your group at events

Effective communications involve more than simply presenting information to persuade people to adopt a new activity or making it easy for them to remember what, when and how to do the activity. To be fully effective, information about the impact of newly adopted activities needs to be presented, as well. Numerous studies document the positive effects that providing feedback can have upon the adoption and maintenance of sustainable behaviour.

And please try to remember that while negative messages are a necessary part of directing people's attention to a problem, they are likely to be counter-productive if they are not accompanied and overshadowed by messages that are empowering and hopeful. Further, repeatedly presenting a message that focuses on the negative aspects of a problem can cause

people to habituate to that message. Once people understand the problem, it is wise to move on to presenting the opportunities to implementing the solutions.

### ***Finding Resources***

If your Green Team needs help raising funds, definitely consider bringing in someone with the experience you need. For matters of education or advocacy on particular ecological issues, representatives from some local environmental group could be invited to do a presentation or attend a planning meeting. Or someone from a faith community that has already traveled a ways down the green path could provide advice to you.

## **FUNDRAISING TIPS**

- sell CFLs, hold organic/locally made bake sales,
- ask that a portion of the faith community budget be designated for greening activities
- create an inventory of personal resources among congregation members
- ask for donations and publicly acknowledge donors

### **REVIEWING**

Also referred to as assessing, evaluating or analyzing, the reviewing part of the process is crucial to knowing if you're being successful in your efforts.

The key aspect of assessing is measuring. It is a truism in business, as well as elsewhere, that "What gets measured, gets managed". Some suggestions:

- Keep records/bills that indicate the energy you are saving and post this information for your community to see.
- After every event or action, spend some time analyzing the process and the results. Did it meet your expectations? If not, why not? What problems were encountered, and how were they dealt with? How could it be improved

next time?

- Celebrate each milestone, acknowledge people who got you there, and make their achievements public.
- Remember, there are no such things as failures, there are only learning experiences. That said, track your stumbling blocks as well as your successes. Other faith communities can learn a lot from those who have gone green before them.

## Networking

We all know that “No faith community is an island, complete onto itself”. At some point, we will need to reach out to other institutions and organizations beyond the walls of our own sacred space. Sometimes we need information, sometimes we need help, and sometimes we need to tell the world about our successes. Whatever the reason, establishing good working relationships with counterparts in other faith communities, civil society organizations, government, the commercial sector and the media will make it much easier to accomplish your goals.

For inter-group communication, Faith & the Common Good has set up a mail list called [greenteam@faith-commongood.net](mailto:greenteam@faith-commongood.net). It is for anyone who is interested in greening their faith community, particularly those who are actually working on greening projects. You can use it to:

- share the latest news and information resources
- post updates on your projects
- ask for advice
- see what problems and successes others in a similar situation are experiencing
- coordinate actions and events involving other Green Teams.

To sign up for it, go to <http://www.faith-commongood.net/gss/action.asp>. Messages posted to the list address will be received in your e-mailbox. For those of you who are already inundated with too much e-mail, there

is a ‘digest’ option that gives you only a periodic summary of posted items.

## THREE KEY STEPS

### 1. Green Your Place of Worship

Develop and implement green policies  
Promote energy efficiency — conduct an energy audit, fundraise and retrofit

### 2. Green Your Faith Community

Educate worshippers on how to green their individual lives

### 3. Network with Other Green Activists

Network with other faith communities and their green activists

## Other Activities

The following are a list of concrete actions and policies that you could promote:

- Promote alternate transportation such as carpooling, bicycling, and public transit.
- Create a non-toxic environment by establishing a scent-free policy, and use eco-friendly and people friendly cleaning products. When retrofitting, use natural, non-toxic materials that do not emit harmful or irritating chemicals. Whenever possible, choose low VOC paints, adhesives, finishes, carpets and composite wood products.
- Social Investment: Encourage faith community members to invest their savings in ethical and earth-friendly companies and funds.
- Food: Set an example by following each worship service and community event with a Fair Trade coffee and tea break. Include organic milk and cookies, and be sure that these wholesome products are labeled so. Post lists of local organic food sources such as farmers markets and grocers who carry local and organic goods.
- Consumer purchasing: On your bulletin board and/or in your newsletter make note of stores

and manufacturers that deal in Fair Trade, natural, local and organic clothing, household goods etc... Faith & the Common Good will keep an updated list of such suppliers on our website and in our quarterly E-letter.

- Recycling: Get your faith community, particularly the youth, engaged in creating and maintaining a rigorous recycling program. Even better, promote the use of reusables, such as ceramic mugs and glasses instead of paper and certainly instead of Styrofoam, and consider using recycled paper products for official church documents. Faith & the Common Good will be posting various suppliers of recycled paper office and hygiene products on our website and in our E-letter.
- Composting: Ditto for composting, have your youth group or maintenance staff establish the most comprehensive composting system that your garden/landscaping will accommodate. Use the soil from it to start or enhance a community garden.

*Thank you for participating in  
Greening Sacred Spaces!*

## **FAITH & THE COMMON GOOD**

We hope this guide has been useful to you. Please feel free to contact us if you need additional information.

- Visit our website for more information: [www.faith-commongood.net](http://www.faith-commongood.net),
- Email us at [info@faith-commongood.net](mailto:info@faith-commongood.net), or
- Call us at 416-978-5306



