

2019-2022



ENERGY BENCHMARKING PROGRAM SUMMARY REPORT

Faith & the
Common Good | La foi et le
bien commun

 **Greening Sacred Spaces**
OTTAWA CHAPTER

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ABOUT GREENING SACRED SPACES

Established as the local chapter of Faith & the Common Good in 2004 and legally incorporated as a not-for-profit in 2016, Greening Sacred Spaces (GSS) aims to inspire and support diverse faith and spiritual groups to take action in contributing to greener, healthier, more resilient neighbourhoods. GSS has over 400 members from many different faith communities, including Sikh, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Christian, and Hindu groups. We assist faith communities with both the educational and spiritual dimensions of greening as well as the “how-to” side of audits, retrofits, and generally reducing the carbon footprint of sacred spaces.

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

IF GSS Ottawa provides inspiration and practical tools for faith communities to become more environmentally sustainable,

THEN they will be able to reduce their environmental footprint and deepen their spiritual connection with nature,

BECAUSE they will have the knowledge, tools, and support they need to take meaningful action.

THEMES & SERVICES

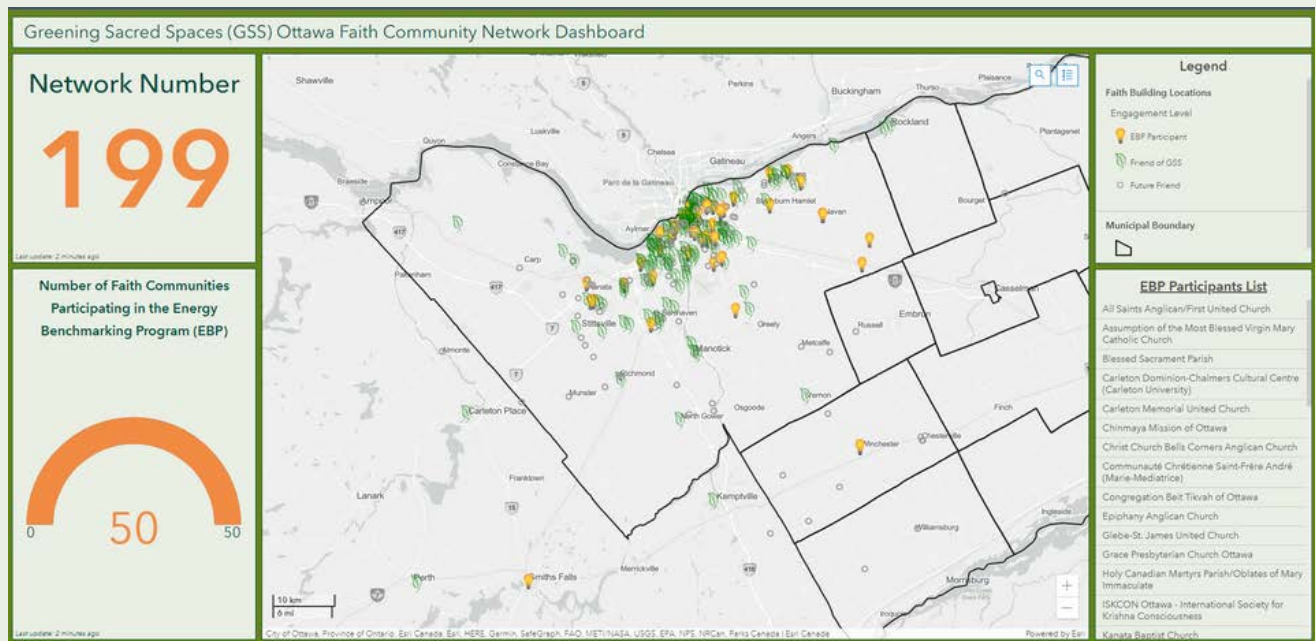


- ① Consulting & Education
- ② Financing & Fundraising
- ③ Networking
- ④ Celebration



OUR FAITH COMMUNITY NETWORK

By March 2022, 50 faith communities were participating in the Energy Benchmarking Program. An interactive network dashboard was developed by Hannah Rockburn to highlight all the participating faith groups and to give recognition to those that have been previously presented with a GSS Award. This base map, hosted by the ESRI ArcGIS Online Platform, not only served as a useful data visualization for the existing participants but also proved to be beneficial during the recruitment process of new faith-based organizations. Many individuals appreciated the ability to quickly access the map via our website and some used it to make connections with other local faith communities.



LAUNCH OF NEW WEBSITE!

Influenced by requests from individuals in our network, we also launched a NEW website for the Ottawa Chapter of Greening Sacred Spaces. This website houses locally-based resources, links, and other various content to aid faith communities with their "greening" projects - from gardening to retrofits. It also showcases all the different projects and activities GSS Ottawa has been involved in over the last 18 years.





THE ENERGY BENCHMARKING PROGRAM

In 2017, recognizing that many faith communities were interested in energy-saving measures but were not aware of their current energy usage, GSS collaborated with the United Church of Canada on Project Footprint and with the Catholic Archdiocese of Ottawa on completing lighting audits of its parishes. It became evident that many faith communities struggled in gathering their own energy data, leading to the inception of the Ottawa Faith-Building Energy Benchmarking Program.

The Energy Benchmarking Program (EBP) was a free three-year program, launched in 2019, to help 50 faith communities take practical, cost-effective action by raising awareness and understanding of their building's energy use and emissions. The EBP used the Energy Star Portfolio Manager, an energy management tool, to visualize energy consumption and changes over time. It identified baseline energy usage and highlighted areas for improvement over a 3-5 year period. Every year, participants received an annual report with the most recent year's energy data. This program was supported primarily through a grant by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, along with the Ottawa Community Foundation, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, and the Sustainable Capacity Foundation.

WHAT IS ENERGY BENCHMARKING?

ENERGY BENCHMARKING IS A PROCESS BY WHICH YOU BECOME MORE AWARE OF :

- ▶ How much energy your building uses
- ▶ How much money you spend on energy
- ▶ Your faith building's carbon footprint
- ▶ How your building's energy use has changed over time
- ▶ How your building's performance stacks up to other buildings in your geographic community

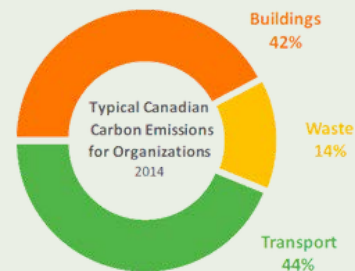
WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- ① Supports Stewardship
- ② Targets Carbon Consumption
- ③ Saves energy and money

The 5 C's of the Energy Benchmarking program

- Cost Saving** Improving Energy Efficiency means saving costs over the long run.
- Comfort** Enhancing Building performance means that your building spaces will be more comfortable spaces to be in.
- Community** Inspire your faith community & others to be leaders of environmental stewardship.
- Convenience** We at GSS will do the work of gathering and analyzing your building energy data, saving you time and effort.
- Commitment** Knowing more about your actual building energy use means you can make better decisions and take a plan of action.

Buildings typically account for about 42% of a faith community's carbon footprint*. With over 27,000 faith communities in Canada, the faith sector can do a lot to lower emissions and make a real impact, starting from their places of worship. Managing their building performance also encourages their members to follow suit with energy conservation and efficiency at home. The building also accounts for a significant portion of the operating costs of a faith community. Therefore, reducing, and making it more efficient, also means reducing costs and saving money. Savings that can be directed towards other activities.



* NATIONAL INVENTORY REPORT 1990-2014: CANADA'S SUBMISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, 2016



THE ENERGY BENCHMARKING PROGRAM

DELIVERABLES OVERVIEW

**NEW FAITH
COMMUNITIES
CONTACTED**

313

**NETWORK
NUMBER:
'FRIENDS' OF GSS
OTTAWA**

200

Includes ANY FC that has been involved in past events OR has communicated in some way with FCC or GSS Ottawa

**UNDER-
REPRESENTED
GROUPS SIGNED UP**

14

28% of participants are considered under-represented!

**TOTAL # OF ENERGY
BENCHMARKING
REPORTS SENT**

90

**15
EVENTS**

18+

**ARTICLES, BLOGS &
NEWSLETTER
MENTIONS**



RESOURCES & DOCUMENTS

INFOGRAPHIC SERIES 2020

MAKE ENERGY EFFICIENCY A PRIORITY

SAVING MONEY WHILE SERVING OTHERS

TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR COOL IN THE KITCHEN WHILE REDUCING YOUR ENERGY USAGE

1 UPGRADE APPLIANCES



ENERGY STAR CERTIFIED COMMERCIAL FRIDGE/FREEZER USES **20% LESS ENERGY** THAN STANDARD MODELS.

Country Grocer replaced their old refrigerators and ceiling lights, reducing the store's environmental footprint. They have seen a significant drop in their energy bills.

2 HAVE 5CM SPACE FOR CONDENSER COILS TO BREATHE



CLEAN THE COILS!

- Dust and debris restricts cool-air flow in the fridge forcing the unit to work harder
- Located behind OR underneath the fridge vacuum out every **6 MONTHS**

3 ADJUST FRIDGE THERMOSTAT



KEEP THE FRIDGE BETWEEN **2.5-4.5°C** AND THE FREEZER NO COLDER THAN **-18°C**

Iron Skillet in Collingwood found their refrigeration units were **eating up 42%** of their energy costs. They installed curtains to prevent cold air from escaping, lowering their energy bill.

4 MAINTAIN/CLEAN APPLIANCES



WATCH OUT FOR FROST BUILD-UP!

- **DEFROST** at least **once/year** - Frost makes your appliance work harder than needed using more energy
- Keep cold appliances away from direct sunlight or sources of warmth

5 A FULL FREEZER OPERATES BETTER THAN AN EMPTY ONE



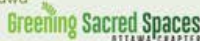
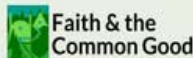
KEEP THE DOOR CLOSED

- Use an ice tray instead of an ice maker!
- **AVOID** overloading the refrigerator! A lack of air flow will increase cooling times and lead to food deterioration - Donate or Share any leftover food items from events!



YOU CAN'T MANAGE WHAT YOU DON'T MEASURE - SIGN UP FOR OUR ENERGY BENCHMARKING PROGRAM

These tips and more can be found in the ENERGY STAR Action Workbook for Congregations endorsed by FCG, on our website www.greeningsacredspaces.ca and on our Facebook Page @GSSOttawa



SOURCES: NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA AND [HTTPS://WWW.EPICBCNRG.CA/](https://www.epicbcnrg.ca/)

MAKE ENERGY EFFICIENCY A PRIORITY

SAVING MONEY WHILE SERVING OTHERS

WARMING HEARTS WITHOUT BURNING THROUGH POCKETS: HOW TO REDUCE YOUR ENERGY USAGE IN THE KITCHEN

1 UPGRADE APPLIANCES



ENERGY STAR CERTIFIED COMMERCIAL APPLIANCES USE **20- 50% LESS ENERGY** THAN STANDARD MODELS!

- A steam cooker uses up to **50% LESS** energy
- York University's Dining Hall upgraded all their kitchen appliances and HVAC system potentially saving approx. \$20 000/year!

2 USE TIMERS AND POWER STRIPS



ELIMINATE ENERGY WASTE!

- By using a timer to ensure the coffee maker heating elements are not operating during off-hours can save you up to **\$100/year**
- Look for brewers with an energy save mode
- Cut power early! Shut off the burner several minutes before the end of the cook time, let residual heat do the work.

3 REDUCE STANDBY TIME



SKIP PREHEATING THE OVEN

- **1 HOUR** standby time on a boiler-based steamer can cost **\$50 - \$300/year**
- Choose the right burner for the pan! A small burner will take longer to heat large pan, using more energy
- glassware heats up better...less cooking time

4 KEEP OVEN DOOR CLOSED



USE WINDOW TO CHECK PROGRESS! AN OVEN LOSES APPROX **20%** OF HEAT WHEN OPENED

Ensure the oven door seal is tight! A loose seal will leak heat and waste energy.

5 USE SMALL APPLIANCES FOR SMALL JOBS



CONSIDER USING A MICROWAVE INSTEAD!

You will use up to **50% LESS** energy than a conventional oven



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SOURCES: NATURAL RESOURCES CANAD, [HTTPS://WWW.EPICBCNRG.CA/](https://www.epicbcnrg.ca/) AND [HENRYMAG.CA/](https://www.henrymag.ca/)



RESOURCES & DOCUMENTS

INFOGRAPHIC SERIES 2020

MAKE NATURAL GAS EFFICIENCY A PRIORITY

SAVING MONEY WHILE SERVING OTHERS TIPS FOR SAVING ON YOUR NATURAL GAS BILL WITH WATER

1 CONSIDER GOING TANKLESS

ONLY HEAT WATER AS NEEDED!



An ENERGY STAR certified commercial water heater uses **30% LESS ENERGY** on average than a storage tank type - Why waste money heating water when the building is not in use?

2 ADJUST YOUR HEAT SETTINGS

SAVE 5% FOR EVERY 5°C YOU LOWER THE WATER TEMPERATURE



Natural Resources Canada recommends setting the temperature no higher than 60°C, ideally around 50°C/120°F. Canadian Apartment Properties Real Estate Investment Trust (CAP REIT) upgraded their boiler systems, saving thousands of dollars per year!

3 INSULATE YOUR WATER PIPES



Campbell Company of Canada in Toronto, ON insulated their piping **saving \$65 000/yr** on natural gas costs. This also helped them qualify for over \$25 000 in financial incentives

4 MAINTAIN YOUR FAUCETS

CAST IRON PIPES WILL CORRODE OVER TIME, HAVE SERVICED ANNUALLY



One leaky faucet can waste up to 23-38 litres of water per day. If a hot water tap leaks, you're wasting both water and energy!

5 INSTALL FAUCET AERATOR

CLEAN VEGETABLES IN A PARTIALLY-FILLED SINK RATHER THAN CONTINUOUSLY RUNNING THE TAP



Boston Pizza in Niagara Falls, ON installed a low-flow faucet at **NO COST** through program incentives, along with upgrading their ventilation system. Results have convinced the franchise that energy cost savings and customer comfort go hand-in-hand.



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SOURCES: NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA, EFFICIENCY NOVA SCOTIA, [HTTPS://ENBRIDGESMARTSAVING.COM/](https://enbridgeSMARTSAVING.COM/)

MAKE NATURAL GAS EFFICIENCY A PRIORITY

STAY WARM, SAVE MONEY HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE COLD WHILE MINIMIZING ENERGY COSTS

1 CHECK FOR AIR LEAKS

USE CAULKING AND WEATHER STRIPS TO FILL IN CRACKS



Windows, doors and skylights can be a significant source of energy loss. Consider upgrading to double pane windows or using different window coverings, such as shades or temporary plastic barriers

2 SET SMART THERMOSTAT

WHEN SERVICES ARE NOT BEING HELD, THE BUILDING SHOULD BE SET AT A LOWER TEMPERATURE



LeChaim in Toronto, ON saves 21% annually with a smart thermostat

3 INSULATE ATTIC/WALLS

MOST COMMON HEAT LOSS IS THROUGH THE ATTIC, INCREASING YOUR HEATING BILL



The Town Hall in Hampton, NB insulated their attic and heat pump saving them over \$12 000/year!

4 INSTALL ENERGY EFFICIENT WINDOWS

ENERGY STAR CERTIFIED WINDOWS CAN SAVE YOU UP TO 45% ON YOUR ENERGY BILL



Poor installation can cause condensation, cold drafts and leaks potentially resulting in water damage. If possible, choose a company with Window Wise Certification

5 REPLACE WINDOW GLAZING

USE A "LOW-E" COATING- THEY ABSORB OR REFLECT HEAT BASED ON TEMPERATURE



Manitoulin Hotel & Conference Centre, ON applied nanocoating to the restaurant's windows and saw returns in less than 36 months!



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SOURCES: NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA, DIRECT ENERGY BUSINESS AND ENERGY SAGE



RESOURCES & DOCUMENTS

INFOGRAPHIC SERIES 2020

MAKE ENERGY EFFICIENCY A PRIORITY

BE A LIGHTHOUSE

BRIGHTEN YOUR PATH TO ENERGY SAVINGS: A GUIDE TO IMPROVING YOUR BUILDING'S PERFORMANCE THROUGH LIGHTING

1 REPLACE YOUR BULBS

ENERGY STAR CERTIFIED LIGHT BULBS USE UP TO **90% LESS** ENERGY THAN INCANDESCENT BULBS

Cupcakes of Westdale Village, Ontario saved almost **\$400/yr** using Light-Emitting Diode (LED) technology



2 TURN OFF UNNECESSARY LIGHTS

USE NATURAL LIGHT INSTEAD

Great Wolfe Lodge switched to LED lights, saving the resort \$154,000 annually in electricity costs. Saving approx. **1.4 MILLION kWh** of electricity/year!



3 USE MOTION SENSOR LIGHTING

Island Coffee Roasters in Oakville, ON switched to LEDs and installed ceiling mounted, motion sensors **saving 25%** on their electricity bill! It translated to 197 000 kWh saved/year, which is enough energy to brew almost 10 million cups of espresso!



4 USE DIMMER SWITCHES

SET THE MOOD

Reduce light levels at different times of day. Gears Bike Shop in Mississauga reduced their costs using dimmer switches and LEDs by 85%, **saving \$880/yr!**



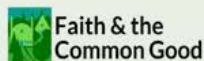
5 CONSIDER THE LIGHTING IN YOUR CEILING FANS

Touch of Class Hair Salon in Sudbury, ON switched to LED lights. The investment in LED fixtures more than paid for itself within a year, **trimming \$1,300** off its annual energy bill!



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SOURCES: NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA AND SAVEENERGY.CA



RESOURCES & DOCUMENTS

ENERGY BENCHMARKING CASE STUDIES DOCUMENT

2019-2022

OTTAWA FAITH-BUILDING ENERGY BENCHMARKING PROGRAM

CASE STUDIES

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
 OTTAWA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
 Ontario Trillium Foundation
 Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario

Greening Sacred Spaces OTTAWA CHAPTER
 Faith & the Common Good

Featured Faith Communities:

1. Assunnah Muslims Association Community Centre
2. Chinmaya Mission Ottawa
3. Carleton Memorial United Church
4. Glebe-St. James United Church
5. Grace Presbyterian Church
6. Kanata United Church
7. Ottawa Bahá'í Centre
8. Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Ottawa-Carleton
9. St. Basil's Catholic Church
10. St Thomas the Apostle Anglican Church

LINK:

<https://greeningsacredspaces.files.wordpress.com/2022/05/energy-benchmarking-case-studies.pdf>

ENERGY BENCHMARKING EVALUATION REPORT

"The Energy Benchmarking Program was a success in Ottawa, achieving its goals and being well-received by participants. The main challenges were delays associated with things largely outside of the control of Greening Sacred Spaces Ottawa, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and difficulties dealing with utilities... Faith communities identified the cost of upgrade projects as a major hurdle to taking further action and expressed interest in participating in future programs such as this one, or follow-up programs. Other key recommendations include supporting faith communities in finding and applying for funding they qualify for, and in celebrating and sharing their energy management success stories with other local communities."

[VIEW FULL REPORT HERE](#)

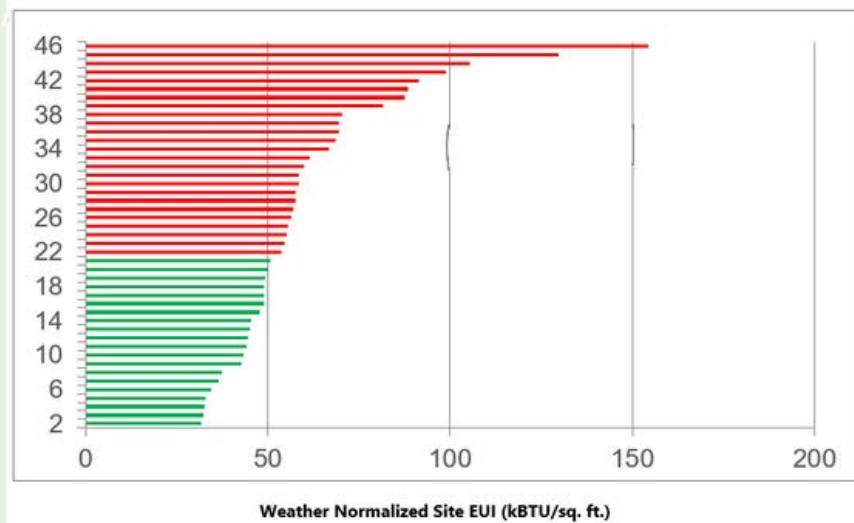
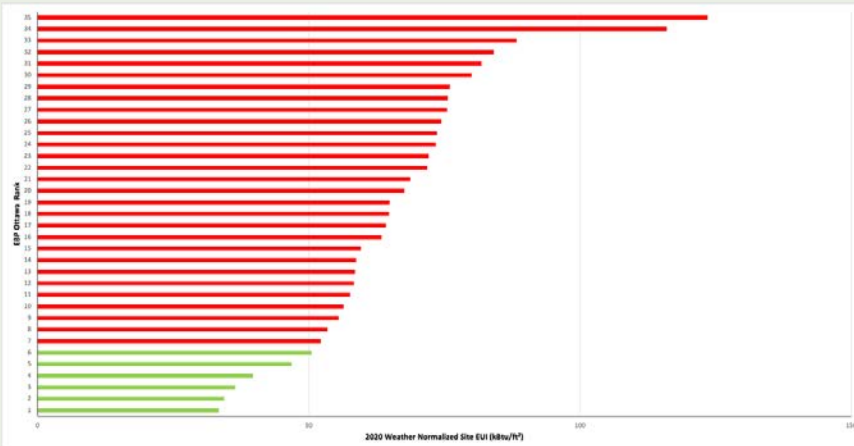
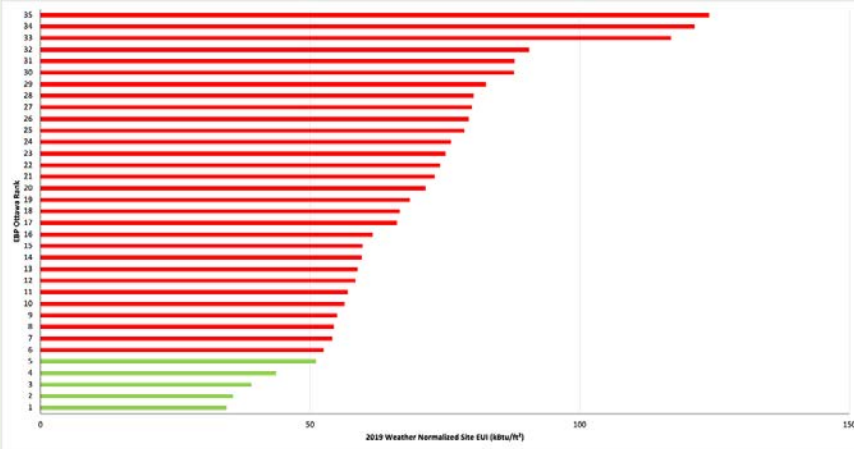




ENERGY USAGE INTENSITY TRENDS & PEER COMPARISON CHARTS

3 Years - 50 Faith Communities - 90 Reports Completed

OTTAWA'S GREENING GOAL: EUI LESS THAN 52 kBTU/sq. ft.



The following graphs show the trends of Energy Usage Intensity (EUI) from 2019 to 2021 of our participating faith communities.

In 2019, less than 20% of the participants reached that goal.

In 2021 over 40% of participants reached the threshold.

Roughly 25% of EUIs increased in 2020 compared to pre-COVID measures.

Most peaks coincided with heating in winter and increased ventilation/air purification



2019 & 2020 EVENTS

01) GSS Ottawa Webinar – On November 13th, 2019, Steven Law from the Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Thornhill, Ontario presented a webinar on behalf of GSS about an Energy Benchmarking Case Study.

02) Winter Regional Meeting with the United Church of Canada, EOORC at Glen Cairn United Church – On February 22nd, 2020, Kai introduced both the Ottawa Faith Building Energy Benchmarking and Faithful Footprints Program to raise awareness and encourage the registration of 12 United churches.

03) GSS Ottawa Webinar: How to Access Your Own Energy Data – On April 15th, 2020, Presenter David Patterson presented information on how to access and you're your faith building's energy data in order to measure and improve your energy consumption.

04) GSS Ottawa Webinar: Impacts of COVID-19 on Faith Communities Relating to EBP – On October 1st, 2020, Ruth Bankey led a discussion on the impact COVID-19 has had on faith communities and its impact on our carbon footprint and building energy efficiency.

05) GSS Ottawa Webinar: Stories of Success – On November 12th, 2020, this webinar presented a discussion about how you can help to ensure the sustainability of your faith community and our city and how others in Ottawa are improving the energy efficiency of their city.

06) GSS Ottawa Webinar: Hope for the Future – On December 8th, 2020, Hannah, Natasha and Emine led a discussion how using clean energy aligns with many faith community missions of environmental stewardship.

01

Webinar: Energy Benchmarking Case Study



03

Webinar: How to Access Your Own Energy Data



05

Webinar: Stories of Success

04 Webinar: Impacts of COVID-19 on Faith Communities Relating to EBP



06

Webinar: Hope for the Future



2021 EVENTS

01) GSS Ottawa Webinar: Ask the Experts Part 1 – On February 16th, 2021, Hannah and Natasha led a discussion about discussing different energy projects and financing in 2021 and how faith communities can benefit from these. Guest speakers, Melanie Johnston from EnviroCentre and Aaron Thornell from CoEnergy.

02) GSS Ottawa Webinar: Ask the Experts Part 2 – On March 16th, 2021, was a continued discussion of the previous webinar with guest speakers Harnoor Boparai, an energy solutions consultant at Enbridge, Kristina Keilty, program manager at Save on Energy, Stuart Dobson, associate Stuart of Kristina, Robert Edwards, business advisor at Independent Electricity System Operator, and Stephen Collette, building grants manager at Faith & the Common Good.

03) GSS Ottawa Webinar: Faithful Footprints – On June 17th, 2021, Jane Dawson led a discussion on ideas, tools, and grants available to help faith communities live their climate commitments by improving the energy efficiency of their church buildings.

04) Carbon Capture Day Event Collaboration – On August 25th, 2021 Hannah and Charlie presented at Mooney's Bay Park about the Energy Benchmarking Program

05) Green Gathering – On October 6th, 2021, the Green Gathering was our first hybrid networking event to celebrate faith community greening successes. There was a range of speakers from various faith community representatives to contractors and GSS Staff.

06) Ask the Experts Part 3: EV Chargers – On November 15h, 2021, this Q&A - style informational webinar featured guest speakers Chris Hubbard from LightenCo and Christopher Ralph from Lion Electric Co. They helped answer inquiries about EV chargers installations and the ZEVIP Grant delivered by Hydro Ottawa.

01

Webinar: Ask the Experts Part 1



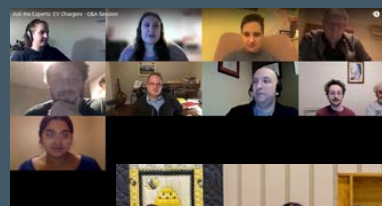
03

Webinar: Faithful Footprints



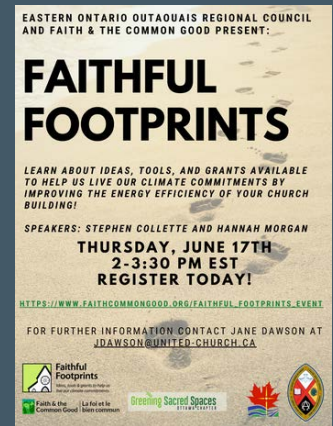
05

Green Gathering Networking Event



02

Webinar: Ask the Experts Part 2



04

Carbon Capture Day Event



06

Webinar: Ask the Experts Part 3



2022 EVENTS

01) GSS Ottawa Webinar: ZEVIP Funding Information Session - On February 8th, 2022, Charlie Scromeda and Kristina Inrig led an information session on the ZEVIP Funding provided by Hydro Ottawa, with support from Steve Hubbard from LighenCo. Kristina also talked about additional financing options to help cover the remaining 50% of the costs to install 1-2 EV Chargers.

02) GSS Ottawa Energy Benchmarking Program Conference - On May 14, 2022, the GSS Team held a hybrid conference at the AMA Centre on Hunt Club. We celebrated the 50 Ottawa faith communities who took part in the Energy Benchmarking Program, and heard about their successes and failures in managing their operations, accessing funding, and much more!

The GSS staff presented an overview of the different trends we saw in the EBP Reports, along with what new programs lie ahead for 2022/2023. Additionally, we had a variety of guest speakers.

1) Stephen Collette spoke about why the Energy Benchmarking Program is important and the benefits of tracking your buildings' energy performance.

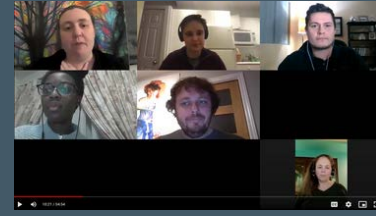
2) Dan Vivan presented on "The Path to Net Zero" and what we can do about taking action about Climate Change.

3) Ron Benn, from Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-Op, also presented the different services they offer.

We ended the conference with a special GSS Award Ceremony, where we presented John Dorner with a Green Leadership Award in recognition of his dedication and leadership in interfaith environmental community building over the last 18+ years with Greening Sacred Spaces.

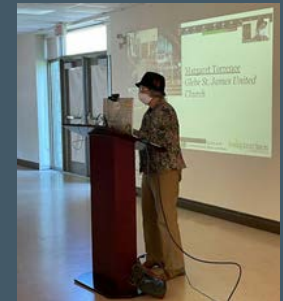
01

Webinar: ZEVIP Information Session



02

Energy Benchmarking Program Conference



Faith & the Common Good | La foi et le bien commun

Greening Sacred Spaces
OTTAWA CHAPTER

AUDIT TO ACTION PILOT

Six Virtual Green Audits were conducted by Stephen Collette from Faith & the Common Good. Each faith community has committed to completing at least 1 of the recommendations within the next year. This booklet contains the summary of the audits completed as part of this pilot.





GSS IN THE NEWS

2020 ARTICLES

Jewish Day School: Where everyone knows your child's name.

Small classes and an intimate environment ensure that your child comes first and their learning needs are met.

Registration for the 2020/21 school year is now open.

To book a tour and learn more, contact:

Ottawa Jewish Community School
Jennifer Greenberg, 413-722-0220 x345,
jgreenberg@jcsps.ca

Yeshiva Day School Ottawa
Rabbi Sarah Perkin, 413-274-0112
rabbi.perkin@yeshiva.org



New program to help faith communities reduce energy costs

Universities have been the building on doing well compared to other sectors. But benchmarking is an effective way of comparing to similar and comparable institutions. The Energy Benchmarking Program (EBP) is a free program that helps faith communities reduce energy costs. The program is designed to help faith communities understand their energy usage, set goals, and implement a plan to reduce energy costs. The program is designed to help faith communities understand their energy usage, set goals, and implement a plan to reduce energy costs.

Home • News • Blog • Welcome to Ottawa Energy Benchmarking and Greening Sacred Spaces Team

Welcome to Ottawa Energy Benchmarking and Greening Sacred Spaces Team

by Ruth Bankley
40sc
on August 21, 2020

Perhaps, you are well aware that Greening Sacred Spaces Ottawa has been one of the oldest chapters of the FCG sustainability network operating in Ottawa for over 15 years. What you may not know is that a few new faces have joined this chapter in the hopes of contributing to the meaningful work of the group and building its story further. We would like to introduce ourselves, and in so doing, also discuss some of the ways in which we the Energy Benchmarking Program (EBP) that we are both involved in will be moving, going forward this year.

My name is Ruth Bankley, I am the new Program Manager for the Energy Benchmarking Program and Greening Sacred Spaces. I would also like to introduce the new Program Coordinator for the Energy Benchmarking Program - Emine Turgut. Together we bring many collective years of experience within the academic and NGO sectors and in work related to environmental and community sustainability. We also have a diverse range of experiences, personal and professional, with faith communities, many of whom have historically been underrepresented within the ENGO sector. We will also have two new interns, who under our supervision, will be co-developing material and research of relevance to the EBP and the data findings from the benchmarking process.

Article 2. Welcome to Ottawa Energy Benchmarking and Greening Sacred Spaces Team, FCG Blog: August 21, 2020

LINK: <https://www.faithcommongood.org/welcome-to-ottawa-energy-benchmarking-and-greening-sacred-spaces-team>

Article 1. New Program to help faith communities reduce energy costs. Ottawa Jewish Bulletin: January 27, 2020

LINK: <https://cdn.fedweb.org/fed-10/2/OJB%2520-%2520200127%2520-%2520Jan%252027-2020.pdf>

FAITH NEWS

Are we losing faith in Ontario? Or just our faith buildings?

The Energy Benchmarking Program (EBP) has been a success story for many faith communities in Ontario. The program is designed to help faith communities understand their energy usage, set goals, and implement a plan to reduce energy costs. The program is designed to help faith communities understand their energy usage, set goals, and implement a plan to reduce energy costs.

Article 3. Are we losing faith in Ontario? Or just our faith buildings? Vistas- Alta Vista Canterbury Community Newspaper: September 6, 2020

LINK: <http://vistas-news.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/VISTAS-Sept-2020-final-small.pdf>



How Greening Sacred Spaces Energy Benchmarking Program Can Help Mosques Fight Climate Change in Ottawa

Article 4&5. How Greening Sacred Spaces Energy Benchmarking Program Can Help Mosques Fight Climate Change in Ottawa, Muslim Link: September 8, 2020
Khaleefa: September 28, 2020

LINK: <https://muslimlink.ca/news/how-greening-sacred-spaces-energy-benchmarking-program-can-help-your-mosque-fight-climate-change>



GSS IN THE NEWS

2021 ARTICLES

Article 6. Greening Sacred Spaces. Good News in the Glebe: February 2021

LINK: <https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/72d2e444/files/uploaded/Good%20News%20in%20the%20Gleb%20-%20February%202021.pdf>

Article 7. Special Issue GSS Newsletter. Insert in the Peace & Environment News (PEN): Spring Edition 2021

Article 8. Tracking Energy Use in Church Buildings. CrossTalk: June 2021

LINK: https://issuu.com/ottawaanglican/docs/june_2021_crosstalk

GSS IN THE NEWS



SPECIAL EDITION OF THE PEACE & ENVIRONMENT NEWS SPRING EDITION 2022

Regular PEN:

https://assets.nationbuilder.com/perc/pages/60/attachments/original/1652544685/Spring_2022_Regular.pdf?1652544685

Insider:

https://assets.nationbuilder.com/perc/pages/60/attachments/original/1652544684/Spring_2022_Insider.pdf?1652544684

Humans of PERC: Greening Sacred Spaces

by PERC & GSS Staff

Normally, Clayton Hommonds features a PERC volunteer here, but since this issue was supported so much by Greening Sacred Spaces, we're featuring some of them instead!

Greening Sacred Spaces has a lot of new faces – and yours could be among them!

Are you passionate about environmental sustainability, spirituality, and their intersections? Consider volunteering with Greening Sacred Spaces Ottawa! We're looking for volunteers of any age who are interested in outreach to diverse faith communities in and around Ottawa. Additionally, if you're seeking to improve your skills with ArcGIS and other geographic software, we would love your help in mapping Ottawa's faith communities. Lastly, we welcome volunteers with financial experience to evaluate prospective loans by our community boards.

Contact Hannah Rockburn at gspace@perc.org to learn more! In the meantime, check out our new board members, and volunteers:

Charlie Scromeda
After several years of serving Greening Sacred Spaces Ottawa as a staff capacity, Charlie Scromeda is one of our newest board members. While achieving a B.A. in Early Modern Studies and German at the University of King's College, Charlie worked as a summer stu-



Sophie Lamo
Sophie Lamo is a Program Coordinator at Sea Change Canada. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies from Carleton University with a Minor in Earth Science: Earth Resources and Processes. Sophie has also completed a certification from the United Nations German at the University of King's College, Charlottetown.



Hameed Khorami
Hameed is a volunteer for the Freshwater Stewardship Program (FSP), joining the GSS Ottawa team in December 2021. He is a recent graduate from Carleton University with a B.A. in Environmental Studies with a concentra-

tion in Geomatics. He identifies faith building locations using Google Maps, websites, and other publicly available information. Once he identifies a complete list of faith community locations, he geotags them and geocodes them. He will apply spatial analysis techniques on faith building locations within a 30m radius of freshwater river/lake/stream, and finally, the results will be in an interactive story map to highlight faith community locations, as related to the FSP.

Left: Sophie Lamo recently joined the GSS Ottawa Board and works with Sea Change Canada.

Below: Hameed Khorami is a volunteer who helps with mapping projects.

Act locally for a peaceful, greener world.

With your generous donation you will subscribe to the PEN and ensure we can continue to publish a voice for peace, the environment & social justice in and around Ottawa.

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Charlie Scromeda transitions from staff to Board member at GSS Ottawa.

THE PEN INSIDER February-March 2022 Volume 37 • Number 2

Inside Today's Issue: Greening Sacred Spaces & Energy Benchmarking

Storytelling for Sustainability in a Digital World

by Hannah Rockburn
Hannah is a Program Coordinator with Greening Sacred Spaces in Ottawa.

For thousands of years, cultures have used and relied on the art of storytelling to pass down knowledge over generations. A good story has the power to inspire, give hope, and move people towards better worlds. At Greening Sacred Spaces (GSS) Ottawa, we aim to provide an inclusive networking platform, where everyone can gather together to share their stories, inspire one another, and support each other and celebrate together.



A storyteller in the main hall of St. James United Church, a community space in central Ottawa. Photo: Meagan Vescevic

- Shoutout to the 50 Ottawa EBP Participants!**
- 1. All Saints Church
 - 2. Archbishop Magid / ASAC Centre
 - 3. Assumption of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church
 - 4. Basilian Monastery
 - 5. Carleton Dominion - Chalmers Centre
 - 6. Carleton Memorial United Church
 - 7. Chalmers Mission of Ottawa
 - 8. Christ Church Bells Cavers Anglican Church
 - 9. South Gloucester United Church
 - 10. Congregation Beth Tzedek of Ottawa
 - 11. Ephraim Anglican Church
 - 12. Grace St Roman (St.) United Church
 - 13. Grace Presbyterian Church
 - 14. Holy Canadian Martyrs Parish
 - 15. OGDON Ottawa - International Society for Finding Constellations
 - 16. Roman Catholic Church
 - 17. St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
 - 18. St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church
 - 19. St. Thomas Anglican Church
 - 20. Trinity Anglican Church of Barraboo
 - 21. Holy Trinity Church of the Nazarene
 - 22. Holy Trinity Church - Small Hall
 - 23. Union University Fellowship of Ottawa/Neighbourhood
 - 24. Winchester Baptist Church
 - 25. Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Catholic Church

representing 100 different local faith communities in the Ottawa-Champagne area, we have also been actively working with fifty different groups over the past three years through our Energy Benchmarking Program (EBP). Our outreach only continues to grow as we focus on strengthening these relationships and further building our community.

Storytelling is an integral part of GSS Ottawa and is incorporated into our mission, vision and core values of the organization. Traditionally, we have shared stories at our Green Gathering networking events, during our faith community sustainability tours, growing events, and through various case study documents, articles and blog posts. The COVID-19 pandemic made us realize the need to digitize our platform, as our resources would be more accessible in a digital world.

In 2021, GSS Ottawa launched our own new website: www.greeningspaces.org, including a Facebook page (@GSSOttawa) to encourage shared messaging across our local communities. Another exciting resource we created last year was an interactive network dashboard, the dashboard highlighted all of our Energy Benchmarking participants and tracked our progress on reaching our goal of fifty participating communities!

This network map is the second phase of a three phase storytelling project. The goal of the first phase was to create a case map of all the faith community building locations in the Ottawa-Champagne area – at least as many as we could find! Our GSS volunteers, members, & further expanding this map as part of his work on the Freshwater Stewardship Program for 2021. The second phase was creating the GSS Ottawa Network Dashboard to visually track our progress during the year. As we are heading into phase three, we will be developing a more comprehensive, interactive story map that will include photos, videos, case studies, award nominations and more! This new story map will be launched by June 2022.

Greening Sacred Spaces has also initiated the creation of two additional story maps for Faith & the Common Good (FCG) created by Kelsey Fry and Milton Kieran for the National Trust for Canada in 2020. This report detailed how the closure of faith buildings across the country impacts a diverse network of non-profit and community groups which rely on the spaces.

The second was the FCG's 20th Anniversary Timeline Highlights created by one of our student volunteers, Lisa Toung, and FCG's Communications Manager, Jennifer Basso. You can find both of these stories and more on the FCG website: www.fcg.ca or info@fcg.ca.

Check out our Network Dashboard on our website and see if you can spot YOUR faith community!

<https://www.greeningspaces.org/network-map/>

THANKS TO: Greening Sacred Spaces Ottawa, Faith & the Common Good



OSEAN's Pollinator Patch Pilot Program

Ottawa South Eco-Action Network

OSEAN wants more people to take action on climate change. One way to do this is by creating pollinator patches in our yards. These patches provide a safe haven for bees, butterflies, and other important pollinators. OSEAN is currently looking for volunteers to help create these patches in their own yards.

The Leveller
COMMUNITY CULTURE leveller.ca

(continued from pg 4)

With help from high schools at Naturside OSEAN chooses plants that will thrive in your specific yard, and you'll have countless resources to help support you whilst you're supporting your new plants. Other key partners include EcoLogic Landscapes Restoration, Fletcher Wildlife Garden, Green Thumb Garden Centre, and Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library, who have helped us gain knowledge and resources for the program to be successful.

For more information on the program, to access to many free resources, or to sign up as a resident, please visit OSEAN's website: ottawasouthecoactionnetwork.ca/activities/pollinator-patches.

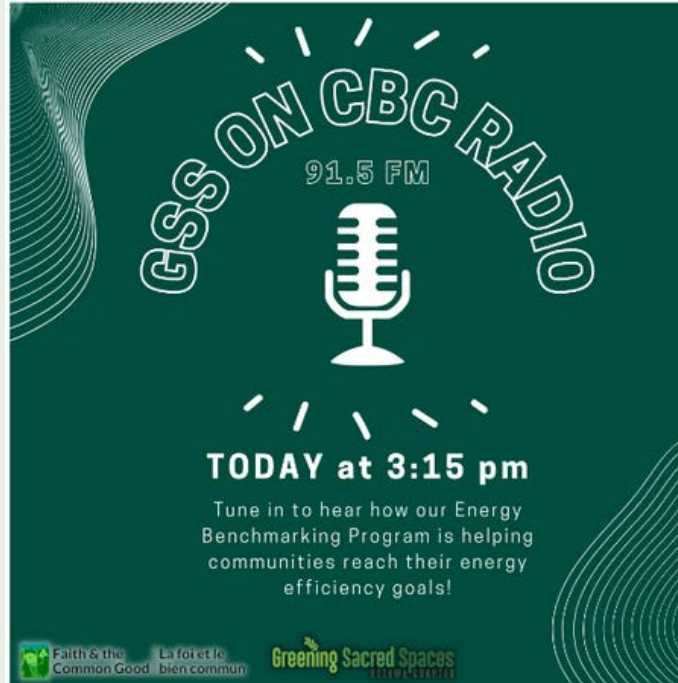
Photo: OSEAN Front Garden Yard Contest participant.

10 Articles



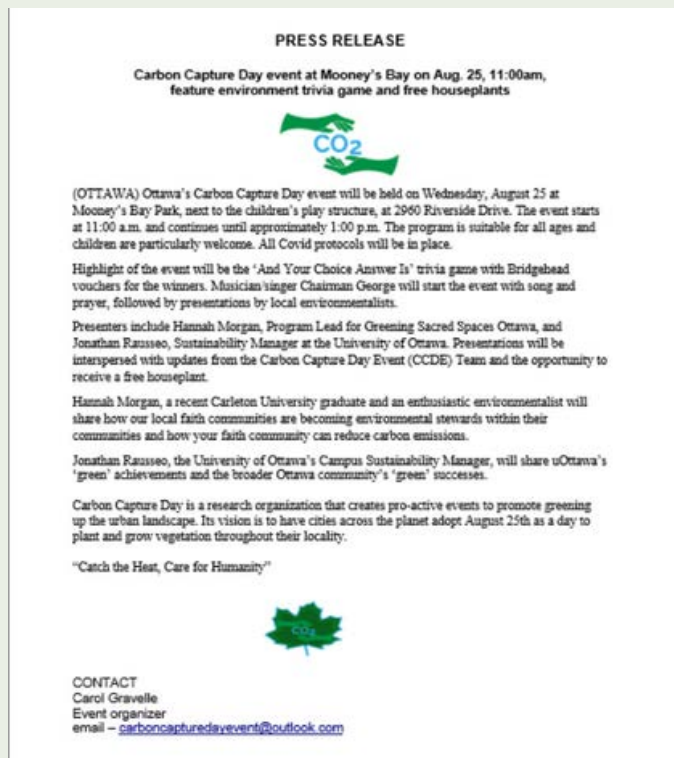
GSS IN THE NEWS

MEDIA



CBC Radio Interview: Greening Sacred Spaces - program looks at faith communities' energy usage. All in a Day with Alan Neal. August 10, 2021

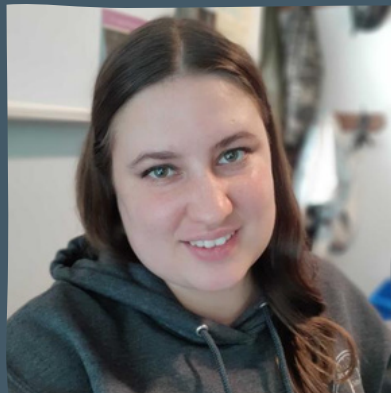
LINK: <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-92/clip/15859789>



Press Release: Carbon Capture Day Event. August 25th 2021



ENERGY BENCHMARKING PROGRAM STAFF TEAM



HANNAH ROCKBURN
EBP Program Manager
(2020-2022)



CHARLIE SCROMEDA
Program Coordinator
(2019, 2021 - 2022)



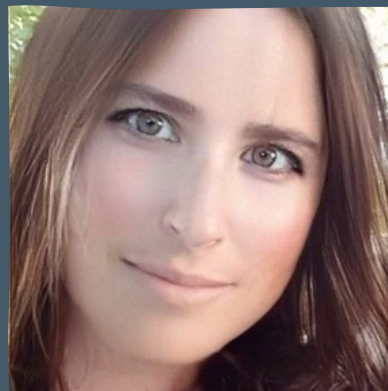
AMINAH ATTAR
Sustainability Intern
(2021-2022)



MANON VESELOVSKY
Sustainability Intern
(2021)



EMINE TURGUT
EBP Program Coordinator,
(2019-2021)



RUTH BANKEY
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(2019-2020)



DAVID PATTERSON
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(2019-2022)



KRISTINA INRIG
Capacity Advisor
(2019-2022)



KAI WANG
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