



Greening Sacred Spaces

Steps to Greening



We have found that successful greening efforts follow a number of simple steps. These are:

- 1) **Introduction:** To give you and your faith community an overview of what is possible as you plan your greening.
- 2) **Expressing Interest:** Even though most people are aware of the challenges we face from human-accelerated climate change and other environmental problems and they want to do something about it, it still need the leadership of a few committed people to make things happen.
- 3) **Gathering People Together:** An important starting point is gathering a group of concerned people together to discuss what needs to be done. FCG has a Forming a Green Team Guide to help with this.
- 4) **Getting Decision-Makers Involved:** To ensure ongoing success it is important to bring key decision-makers from your faith community along in this transformative process.
- 5) **Let everyone know what you are doing:** A key to success, and positive change, is keeping everyone in the loop on developments. Make regular announcements, write newsletter articles, talk about your ideas at coffee time.
- 6) **Green events:** Green events will educate, build interest, answer questions, and create momentum and hope. A green event can be anything from a 15-minute information session to full workshops and eco-fairs. FCG has a several workshop guides to help with planning these events and DVDs on various greening topics.
- 7) **Energy audits:** provide the basic information about the potential for more efficient energy use. An audit can range from a simple walk-through, pointing to obvious problems and potential opportunities, to a full engineering study that goes into great detail.
- 8) **Retrofits:** can make your building more energy efficient and comfortable to use and can range from caulking around doors and windows, to insulating the basement and ceiling, to new mechanical systems.
- 9) **Community Involvement:** What kind of lawns and gardens do you have? Is there the opportunity for a public display of your commitment to caring for creation such as solar panels or other renewable energy sources? How can your building convey to the neighbourhood that your faith community cares about humanity's place in creation? How can you be a leader and set a good example for all your neighbours and other buildings.
- 10) **Greening your sacred home space:** GSS invites you to view your home and surroundings as sacred spaces. Our homes are places of rest, beauty, feasting, gathering, loving, and so on; all sacred activities if we make the connection between the Divine impulse towards goodness, wholeness and well being. We need our homes to be as healthy and eco-sustainable as possible, not only to save energy and money but because it is a more holistic and satisfying way to live.