



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



The “Green Audit”

Faith & the Common Good (FCG) is an interfaith organization that helps faith communities make the connection between their faith and care for the environment. Greening Sacred Spaces (GSS) is the main program that FCG uses to help faith communities make environmental changes within their place of worship and broader community.

GSS has developed several essential ‘tools’ to assist faith communities in their greening process, and one of the tools is the Green Audit. This service has been designed to help faith communities see the greening opportunities in and around their sacred spaces and guide them on how to make changes towards greater energy efficiency, health and sustainability.

The Green Audit

The GSS Green Audit is a competitively priced fee for service program that 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.

There is a focus on finding the ‘low hanging fruit’ – simple, cost effective measures that can be taken to significantly improve building sustainability, often with a quick return on investment from a financial standpoint. There is also a focus on the comfort and health of the congregation, and the way in which each space is utilized.

This audit would take approximately three to four hours and interested faith community members are encouraged to come along. The cost of the audit for buildings under 600m²/6,000ft² is \$1000; for buildings between 6000-12,000 ft², the cost is \$1250; and for buildings over 12,000 ft², the cost is \$1500.

The audit will cover topics such as air quality, energy efficiency, water conservation, waste management, daily operations and maintenance. After the audit is completed, the 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. Color 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 faith communities can use to help turn the recommendations into actions.



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Greening Sacred Spaces

It is important to note that Faith & the Common Good also has audit partners for comprehensive Energy Audits that focus more specifically on detailed energy measures for each religious building. The Green Audit is meant to be a broader, more holistic overview of the wide range of greening topics to help faith communities prioritize a range of actions. To understand more about the different type's of audits available, please see the attached audit comparison guide.

The Green Audit Process

An 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 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. If grant money is available the auditor will help explain these opportunities. Where other similar faith communities have had successes and challenges, the auditor can also make recommendations.

The auditor's main purpose is to show you and your faith community members your building in a new light, from a more holistic perspective. Insights gained will help you with both short-term and long-term greening projects. The report will also assist with budgetary planning so that the report you receive facilitates the decision-making process with a valuable, easily understandable tool for all to use according to their various interests, roles and responsibilities in your sacred space.

Book Your Green Audit

If you would like more information on the Green Audit, please contact Stephen Collette at 705-652-5159 or scollette@faithcommongood.org.