

## Energy Audit Resources

Energy audits are done to determine what areas of a building are sites of energy loss / wastage / inefficiency and to recommend how improvements can be done. The goal is to make your building more energy- efficient, with resulting lower energy bills and a lower drain on our earth's finite resources.

The least expensive energy audit can be done by parish members with the help of resources such as can be obtained from Faith and the Common Good. Its Greening Sacred Spaces(GSS) program offers the following:

- three do-it-yourself guides for energy conservation, water conservation and a waste reduction
- the GSS Energy Action Planner (EAP) is a small booklet/checklist of things people can do around their own homes to conserve energy, reduce waste and save money.

To order these resources visit: [www.faith-commongood.net/resources/index.asp](http://www.faith-commongood.net/resources/index.asp).

Environment Hamilton ([www.environmenthamilton.org](http://www.environmenthamilton.org)) also provides a Home Energy Conservation Planner on its web site that individual parishioners can use in their homes.

A more involved energy audit can be done by someone with energy and building expertise but who may not be certified (therefore the parish would not be eligible for government rebate program). These can cost anywhere from zero to five hundred dollars, depending on the organization or individual completing the audit.

For instance, Greening Sacred Spaces (GSS) is launching Green Audits, a service that offers faith communities an easy and affordable way to understand where the best opportunities for energy conservation, waste reduction and healthy building improvements await. They'll gather your utility bills for the last year and then schedule an appointment to come to your church; looking at areas such as energy efficiency, air quality, water consumption, waste management, daily operations and overall sustainability concerns. At the end of it all, you'll receive a detailed report about how your community can live more sustainably. If you would like to learn more please contact Stephen Collette at 705-652-5159 [scollette@faith-commongood.net](mailto:scollette@faith-commongood.net)

The most comprehensive and expensive energy audit is done by a certified company and will cost approximately 10% of the church's annual heating bill. The company will provide a detailed written report and will do all the paperwork for government rebates.

There are several organizations that can provide the certified energy audits for churches in the Niagara Diocese. The following is not a comprehensive list and there may be other organizations in your area, but is a good start for those interested in getting a full energy audit done.

For parishes in Hamilton, south to Niagara and west to Brantford, contact:

**Environment Hamilton**, 905-549-0900, [www.environmenthamilton.org](http://www.environmenthamilton.org)

For parishes in Halton and north of Hamilton, contact:

**The Elora Centre for Environmental Excellence**, 1-866-865-7337, [www.ecee.on.ca](http://www.ecee.on.ca)

A company called **Ecovert** ([www.ecovert.ca](http://www.ecovert.ca)) in Toronto is also able to provide this service to our diocese. Contact Jim Lord at [jim.lord@ecovert.ca](mailto:jim.lord@ecovert.ca)

With only a small investment in time and/or money, energy audits allow us to be better stewards of creation, and also better stewards of our financial resources!