

Caring for God's Creation

Enhancing the Sustainability of our Buildings

Overview

Care for Creation has long been an important value of our faith community. In the face of the climate crisis, we cannot rely on government alone to challenge us to examine our current lifestyles. The gospel calls us to radical discipleship and an ethic of care of all creation. As a sign of our diocesan commitment to care for creation, financial assistance through the following grant programs has been approved by Synod and is now available to parishes as they work to increase the sustainability of their buildings.

1) Green Audits Program

Eligibility: All parishes without a previously completed energy audit

Assistance Available: 50% of the cost of a Green Audit

A Green Audit is a useful tool for congregations to discern how to make their building more sustainable. Greening Sacred Spaces has been contracted to provide these audits to successful applicants. Audits cost between \$1000-1500 depending on the size of the building. The audit covers topics such as air quality, energy efficiency, water conservation, waste management, daily operations and maintenance. After the audit is completed, the auditor creates a report tailored to the parish that will include findings during the audit, with recommendations on how to improve the issues outlined.

Rolling Application Deadline: Apply At Anytime!

Applicants will be notified within a month regarding the decision of the grant committee.

2) Capital Improvement Program

Eligibility: All Accredited Green parishes

Assistance Available: Up to 25% of the cost of pre-approved capital sustainability improvements

While over the medium and long-term many sustainability improvements to buildings reduce operational costs, one of the barriers for churches in undertaking such improvements is the significant up-front costs. Capital Improvements that are eligible to receive a grant include upgrading major appliances, furnaces, boilers hot water heaters, air conditioning units, refrigerators, adding insulation, sealing leaks, installing low-flow toilets and energy-star doors and windows. Projects must not have been started before an application for funding is submitted. The criteria for prioritizing funding for projects will include the project's environmental impact based on the Green Audit as well as the parish's viability and ministry plan. Up to \$25,000 in diocesan funding is available to be distributed for each of the three years of this program.

***all funding is conditional upon compliance with the regulations set out in Canon 4.6**

Application Deadline: May 1 & October 1 of each year.

Applicants will be notified by May 30 and October 31 regarding the decision of the grant committee.

Additional Information:

The Greening Niagara committee will oversee this three-year initiative that runs until the end of 2016. Parishes are eligible receive one grant from each of the two grant programs. For more information – or for an application form – please visit: www.niagaraanglican.ca/green or contact Ms. Jane Wyse at 905-527-1316 ext 420.