

REPORT OF THE GREENING NIAGARA COMMITTEE

The Greening Niagara Committee has now completed its third year of ministry. Thirty Parishes have completed at least the bronze section of the Accreditation and eight have completed their silver and one their gold. We thank those who are forging ahead in the accreditation process and setting such a positive example. Our hope is that in 2012 more parishes will complete their bronze level and this will be one of our major goals this year. Many of the Parishes have shown innovative ways to change the way that we view our role in living a Greener Life, at home and at church. Every small step taken, from changing light bulbs to taking the Niagara Home Challenge is an outward sign of a deeper commitment towards caring for creation.

In March several parishes held vigils to mark Earth Hour, some on their own and others joining with other local churches. Earth Sunday was also a time when many churches made a special time to draw attention to the environment. Parishes that have participated in KAIROS events and money and written support have been valuable to this organisation's continuing existence. Their web site still includes valuable resources for Environmental Services. www.kairoscanada.org

Greening Network of Ontario (GNO)

Our diocese is one of five of the seven in Ontario that have started meeting quarterly to share ideas and combine environmental advocacy work. GNO is hoped to be a support network for bishops and churches to help mobilize the Anglican Church. The Dioceses involved at these meetings are: Ontario, Toronto, Ottawa, Huron and Niagara. GNO is working with Greening Sacred Spaces to begin implementing the national synod motion A-180-R1 to bring about a multi-faith database for collecting energy use by churches. Niagara and Huron are the dioceses chosen to start hosting environmental workshops for their parishes. (See below).

Two Niagara Workshops

At the time of writing this report two Niagara workshops are being planned to start collecting the utility data from parishes: September 28th from 7 – 9 p.m. at St. David's, Welland; October 22nd from 10 a.m. to noon at St. Luke's, Burlington. It is our hope that as many parishes as possible will have sent representatives to these two events to share ideas and learn new ways to achieve accreditation. There will be two parts to the sessions: 1) Entering data on the church utilities onto a database for later comparison, 2) Speed Greening presenters who will talk about topics such as: eating local, waste management, solar power, Good Food Boxes and other environmental issues.

We hope that if members of your parish were able to attend they found these sessions helpful. Feedback would be most useful as future workshops may be planned. This is an exciting movement to be spearheading the move to bring a green revolution to the 1,700 Anglican Parishes in Canada.

Green Facilitators in every parish

Forty-three Parishes have submitted the name of their Green Facilitator to us. Having a contact person in every Parish is invaluable for the Committee to send out information and updates to the people without having to use Clergy as the conduit. Could Synod delegates discover if their Parish has a Green Facilitator – the person should be attending Parish Council. And if your Parish is still looking for a person to fill this role could you kindly put this item on the next Parish Council Agenda for discussion.

REPORT OF THE GREENING NIAGARA COMMITTEE (continued)

Supporting Ministries

We work with the Bishop's Advisory Committee on church Buildings and are grateful to David Ricketts who continues to act as the BACCB's liaison to the Greening Niagara committee. Michael Skafel is the Greening Niagara liaison on the BACCB. He also headed up the Solar Energy Taskforce which prepared a report for parishes to use if they wish to pursue installation of a solar power system on their property. It is available on the diocesan website:

<http://niagara.anglican.ca/docs/policies/Solar%20Energy%20Task%20Force%20Report%20-%20microFIT%20October%202010%20%282%29.pdf>

Members of the committee are available to give support and advice to groups and individuals throughout the diocese. In the past year presentations have been made on greening kitchens and installation of solar panels. For comments or ways we can assist you further please contact us Sue Carson (d.carson@sympatico.ca) and Michael Skafel (michael.skafel@sympatico.ca).

Webpage Resources

Remember to continue to use the webpage on the diocesan website and look for resources that will help you with your accreditation.

<http://www.niagara.anglican.ca/green>

We wish to express our sincere thanks to Bill Mous as he steps down as Co-Chair. His tireless work in spearheading the Greening Niagara Committee from its beginning stages has ensured that Niagara is in the forefront of the Anglican Dioceses in taking care of God's creation. Thanks are also extended to Patricia Davis and George Henry who have sadly had to step down from the committee this past year. We are grateful to the whole committee who continue to work with energy and humour and make meetings so enjoyable. At the present time we sadly have no representatives on the committee from Brock or Wellington regions and would like to rectify this void.

Mrs. Susan Curran
Mr. Michael Edwards
Mr. Russell Kelk (past Co-Chair)
Ms. Sarah Noiseux
The Reverend Bill Mous (past Co-chair)

Mr. Dean Sutton-Greenhalgh
The Reverend Max Woolaver
Mrs. Karen Nowicki, Staff Support
The Venerable Michael Patterson,
Ex-officio

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Sue Carson and Mr. Michael Skafel, Co-Chairs