

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Faith & the Common Good is a Canada-wide interfaith network, that encourages spiritual and faith communities to work towards creating greener, more resilient, and sustainable neighbourhoods. Through effective education and collective action, these goals can be achieved. The organization's core goals are to build capacity via diversity, harness & motivate sustainability, and strengthen communities. Faith and the Common Good was founded by United Church ministers who educated United Church groups across the country on environmental issues. Through this, the founders became aware of the high demand from other faith groups who were eager to address and counteract the effects of climate change.

INTERSECTIONAL PROGRAMMING

Working with municipalities, Indigenous communities, and other faith-based or environmental partners, Faith & the Common Good has targeted a variety of environmental issues, including clean energy, active transportation, and clean water. Through Faith & the Common Good's longest-running program, Greening Sacred Spaces, faith groups are taught how to reduce their carbon and ecological footprints through webinars, workshops, certifications, and audits. One of the organization's primary goals is to support the reduction of emissions and waste produced by faith groups within their network. Practices include changes to lighting, insulation, and water usage to lower the community's energy consumption and also to save money from emissions and energy utilization.

One of Faith & the Common Good's programming goals is to provide adequate and equitable resources, such as workshops and guides for clean energy in faith buildings to vulnerable populations within the community they work with. In the city of Hamilton, one of the faith groups in Faith & the Common Good's networks conducted asset mapping to catalogue the resources available to them to combat the local effects of climate change through an initiative called the Lighthouse Project. They also aim to identify which communities will require more resources given the disproportionate effects climate change can have on groups, including visible minorities, individuals below the poverty line, and individuals living with physical disabilities.

Faith & the Common Good collaborated with the City of Brampton's municipal staff to train members of faith communities to become first responders. The organization has also been encouraging communities within its network to act as cooling or warming centers, offering food and phone charging stations during these emergency situations, and educating their community members about climate change and how they can prepare for climate-related emergencies. The organization also has volunteers that help install high-end equipment such as generators and food preparation facilities when required by the communities they operate in.