

Annual Report

2021-2022



Green Churches
Network

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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Another unusual year is behind us as we try to bounce back from the public health measures that have crippled so many already fragile Canadian churches. Despite the difficulties faced by many, there remains optimism and a steadfast intention to keep environmental concerns at the forefront of all our actions. Hope is being restored as we see creative solutions and alliances formed between faith and nonfaith groups working towards shared goals. Keeping the church relevant in today's new society will be imperative as we start the post pandemic recovery.

This past year, we have kept up the momentum by offering support through our activities and projects. Our 15th anniversary project for 2021 wrapped up with great success for our online conferences, which were well attended and subsequently viewed on our YouTube channel. Our Energy Efficiency in Church project sparked the interest of 25 Christian communities seeking support and guidance. Another project started in 2022 to spotlight the activities of Christian communities through videos to inspire others. The year is not complete without an updated toolbox for the Season of Creation, which included the new 'Family and Community Guide' filled with activities to motivate and build awareness. These sought-after resources were a great success and gratitude is due to Renaude Gregoire for her hard work and dedication.

The Network itself is continuing to grow now with 93 registered green churches. We are seeing a widening of interest from non-traditional churches such as Christian associations and organizations, convents, communities, and notably our first Canadian Armed Forces military parish. We are very blessed to be supporting, and to be supported by, so many who share our devotion to protecting Creation, as it is essential for the health of our common home.

ERICA FOLLON
Executive Director

OUR MISSION



The Green Churches Network supports Christian communities that seek to improve their environmental practices by offering tools that are geared towards spirituality, education, and action. These practical tools enable Christians to successfully integrate the ministry of Creation care into regular church life.

Our ecumenical organization welcomes all Christian communities from all denominations across Canada.

We invite faith communities to implement the bible theme of stewardship and Creation care as part of their prayers and teachings and to adopt better environmental practices such as waste reduction, energy efficiency and water conservation. Churches in our Network also organize educational and community service activities which foster a healthy and sustainable environment. Their initiatives are shared through our website and our newsletters.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Simon Lepage (President) Spiritual Care Provider

Mr. Michel Pilon (Vice-President) Coordinator at RATTMAQ

Ms. Melanie Turgeon (Secretary) Administrative Assistant

Mr. Gregory Lynch (Treasurer) Climate Strategy Advisor

Mr. Norman Lévesque (Administrator) Founder of the Green Churches Network

Mr. Stephane Demers (Administrator) Brother Stephane o.praem



OUR TEAM

Erica Follon

Erica has been the Director since 2020, she brings her experience from the environmental nonprofit sector, churches, and holds a Master of Science in Environmental Science from McGill University. Project driven and result oriented, she is here to help churches become examples of environmental stewardship within their communities.



Renaude Gregoire

Renaude coordinated our 15th year anniversary project in 2021. In 2022 she worked on the Season of Creation toolbox and created inspirational videos for and about faith communities. She brings her knowledge in the social justice network and forward-thinking views on Christian ecology to the screen. Renaude is always a great pleasure to work with!



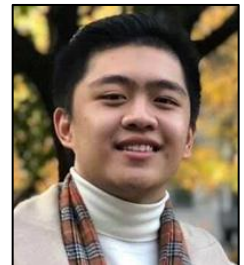
Sofia Lamus

Sofia returned to the Network as a Social Media and Communications Lead, she had previously worked as a summer student with us back in 2016. She is a Masters student in Global Public Policy at Central European University, and is currently writing her thesis on the efficiency of environmental policies in Canada. We are thrilled to have her back on our team!



Jahn Miel Somejo

Jahn is the Coordinator/Technician for our Energy Efficiency in Church project. Jahn is a Civil Engineering Technologist (Dawson college) with experience in assessing buildings and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering at Concordia University. It's a pleasure to have him on board!



Aleyxa Gates-Julien

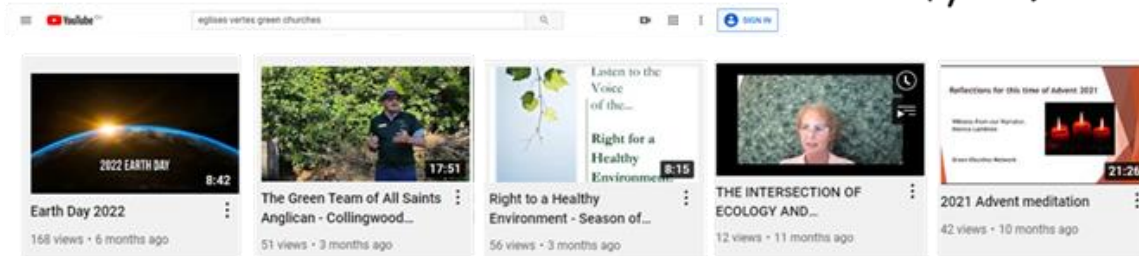
Aleyxa was our Environmental Educator, she brought great energy and passion in combining her faith and love of Creation in all her work. She continues her Environmental studies at Waterloo University in Resource Sustainability and continues to support faith communities with their environmental objectives.



SOCIAL MEDIA



<https://www.youtube.com/user/meteo101/videos>



46 subscribers (up 76%)

43 videos (up 48%)

6317 views (up 63%)



1537 Likes (up 11%)

1720 followers (up 5%)



Twitter

673 Tweets (up 7%)

750 followers (up 7%)



NEWSLETTER

2919 people receive our newsletters (up 1.4%):

1180 - English newsletter

1739 - French newsletter

We keep our electronic newsletter short and simple, filled with information and inspiration. Other organizations publish our news on their own platforms, which increases our exposure as well as traffic to our website.

People can subscribe to the newsletter on our website:

Subscribe to our mailing list:

Subscribe to our mailing list



SEASON OF CREATION 2022

Every year, Christians around the world observe the 'Season of Creation' from September 1st to October 4th. **September 1ST** is the first day of the Orthodox liturgical year and has been dedicated to the protection of the environment since 1989, by Dimitrios I, Patriarch of Constantinople. September 1st has also been named as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation by Pope Francis in 2015. **October 4TH** is the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron Saint of Ecology in the Catholic tradition. He is a model of integral ecology, protector of the earth and biodiversity, and the symbol of a loving relationship with nature. Every year since 2017, the Green Churches Network provides free downloadable resources in form of a 'toolbox' to help Christians celebrate and honor Season of Creation! <https://greenchurches.ca/season-of-creation/>

For 2022, the international theme was 'LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF CREATION', and this year we put a Canadian perspective on the international theme and produced 4 Canadian subthemes, found in our EDUCATION GUIDE. In each theme, there are facts to help learn and build awareness; provide biblical or spiritual inspiration; ideas about taking action; what initiatives already exist; and communication strategies you can do to help your faith community mobilize.



IN THE TOOLBOX:

- FOUR CANADIAN SUBTHEMES in the EDUCATION GUIDE



Listen to the Voice of the...
Oceans!



Listen to the Voice of the...
Nourishing Earth!



Listen to the Voice of the...
Right for a Healthy Environment!



Listen to the Voice of the...
North!

- FAMILY AND COMMUNITY GUIDE

***NEW THIS YEAR !!

- PRAYER GUIDE for your Sunday service



- POSTER for your bulletin board

- calendar of KEY DATES

plus accompanying videos on our YouTube channel!!



OUR 15TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

2021 was our 15th year anniversary, and to celebrate we offered a series of free virtual conferences. In times of restrictions on gatherings, these conferences have enabled our community to come together for inspiration and education. We invited special guest speakers that provided a diversity of inputs and perspectives contributing to a deeper learning and appreciation of christian ecology and climate issues. The conferences have been well attended and the recordings have been well viewed on our YouTube channel. Participation included 280 pre-registered for the live events and over 1100 views of the recordings. The recordings of our conferences are available to view on our YouTube Channel at: [Églises Vertes - YouTube](#). This project was made possible thanks to the generous financial support from the Congregation of the Sisters of Ste-Anne.



Conferences:

- Good Friday for the Earth (English and French)
- Earth Day (French)
- The State of Quebec Forests (French)
- The Good Samaritan and Being Prepared to Help (English)
- Watershed Discipleship: Various Ways to Act on Climate Crises (English)
- Season of Creation toolbox presentation (English and French)
- Creative Journaling on the Path of Eco Spirituality (French- not recorded)
- Love the Creatures like Saint Francois! (French)
- The Intersection of Ecology and Christianity (English)
- Climatic Justice and the COP 26 (French)
- Interview with a Youth Committed to Ecology (French)
- Advent 2021 Meditations (English and French)
- Agri-Ecological Farm for Vulnerable Youth and Families (French)



ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT

Our Energy Efficiency in Church project attracted inquiries from 25 church communities across Canada. The main objective is to help church communities in the process of reducing their environmental footprint through promoting, educating, and implementing energy conservation measures that improve the sustainable development of their communities.

Targets include reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing dependency on fossil fuels, improving energy efficiency, improving water conservation, and lowering energy bills. Our approach is to assist communities through support and guidance as they navigate energy conservation measures and available funding options. This project was made possible thanks to the generous financial support of the Assembly of Quebec Catholic Bishops.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY in Church project

Is your church struggling to pay annual maintenance costs ?
Would you like your church to reduce its ecological footprint ?
Is your heating system near its 'end of life' ?

Sign up today for our Energy Efficiency in Church project and we will help you navigate available grants and support your community towards reducing greenhouse gases and your energy bills!

TO LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP"

SEND AN EMAIL TO dir@greenchurches.ca WITH 'ENERGY' IN THE SUBJECT LINE!

RECYCLING 101 PROJECT

Waste Management in Churches

Creation Care involves both the management and stewardship of the waste that we create. Your church can contribute to improving waste management and caring for God's creation by educating your community and by properly disposing of the waste created in your building. Your church can start sustainably managing your waste by:



1

Assessing your Church's Waste

Assess the types of waste produced in the different areas of your church. This can help **identify the proper containers that need to be in each area** of your church building depending on the waste created.

2

Using signs

Place signs that clearly state the type of waste to be disposed of in each container and provide multiple visual examples of items that belong in each bin. This can help your congregation community **identify what waste goes where**.

3

Having Green Sermons

Plan to have sermons or bible studies that focus on discussing waste management. This can help **promote the importance of waste management** and the need to properly dispose of the waste created in your church.



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

'Recycling 101' was supported with a grant from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation to help those who require assistance with basic recycling practices within their church buildings through education and support. After some public health restrictions had been lifted in 2021, we were finally able to assess and support 9 churches in their recycling efforts. The project was originally intended to support churches that play an active role in their community through the hosting of events and activities for the public at large.

VIDEO PROJECT : SEEDS OF THE WORLD

This project is aimed to inspire and further Creation Care amongst Christians communities. The goal is to produce videos on our YouTube channel that educate and inspire through the sharing of experiences, initiatives, and accomplishments of different faith communities. Through the promotion of good practices, faith communities can draw motivation and inspiration from which to further their own environmental

projects and Creation Care ministries. This project was made possible thanks to the generous financial support from the Congregation of the Sisters of Ste-Anne. Thus far, this year we have posted the following videos: The Green Team of All Saints Anglican, Collingwood Ontario (English) ; Salon Écolo Ste-Anne-de-la Pérade (French) ; My Watershed / Mon bassin versant (bilingual) ; Earth Day 2022 (English and French) ; Right to a Healthy Environment (English and French).



ACTION PLAN 2021 – 2025



We are now in five provinces, and we continue to work hard fostering relationships with our brothers and sisters outside of Quebec. Our goal is to have regional ambassadors representing the network in Christian communities throughout Canada and to reach 250 green churches over the next few years!

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR: JULY 1ST, 2021- JUNE 30TH 2022

REVENUES

Donations from Religious Communities	82 368
Donations from Foundations and Institutions	12 300
Individual donations	1 708
Federal grants	16 856
Annual contributions	450
Interest and amortization	88

Total Revenue **113 770**

EXPENSES

Salaries and employment costs	79 263
Activity Fees	12 345
Office Supplies	1 651
Rent	2 524
Professional fees / accounting fees	3 628
Telecommunications and internet	1 771
Interest and bank fees	763
Tax and permits	36
Amortization and fixed assets	38

Total Expenses **102 019**

Surplus **11 751**

