



February 23, 2016

Dear Friend,

At the April 2015 meeting of Ottawa Presbytery, we together boldly approved a Motion to reduce the Presbytery's Carbon Footprint by 25% in five years. With the Spirit's promptings, an amazing opportunity is emerging to answer the call to care for Creation and live out our faith in a way that will make a tangible difference in the world. This is good news, and now we are excited to announce Ottawa Presbytery's "*Project Footprint!*", as we are calling the process of implementation of the April Motion's carbon footprint undertaking.

And here's more good news. *Project Footprint* kicks off with a groundbreaking partnership with Faith & the Common Good (Greening Sacred Spaces) <http://greeningsacredspaces.net/>, who will be helping us initiate work on our carbon reduction target. Faith & the Common Good, with their lengthy and solid track record of work on green issues with faith communities, have been given a three month contract by the General Council Office to develop a national carbon reduction strategy for the United Church of Canada and have asked to work with our initiative as a pilot project for the whole Church at the national level.

This is a very promising development. The challenge is that in order to take advantage of this help, we need to act immediately to collect vital church building information that will form the backbone of the work. So, your help is central.

Attached to this letter is a data collection form that we ask you to fill out by March 25th, 2016. The form asks for general building information, building usage details and utility data for your Church buildings covering the past year. By completing and submitting this intake form, you will enable us to create a baseline carbon footprint for our Presbytery as well as to analyze the energy savings potential in your building. **The goal is to reveal ways that your congregation can both save money and reduce its carbon emissions by 25% over the next 5 years.**

In addition, the information gathered here is required in order to identify church building sites within the Presbytery that could qualify for an ASHRAE energy audit¹ or a GSS Green Audit². Finally, it will help us assess the feasibility of a Green Revolving Fund, whereby funds would be made available by the Ottawa Presbytery in order to provide loans to congregations to assist in energy retrofit projects allowing individual congregations to reduce their energy-related costs.

We know that completing this form will take some time and commitment, so we ask you to imagine how much good we will do for the environment if every one of our 69 congregations has reduced its carbon emissions by 25% in five years! And thereby also demonstrated strengthened stewardship of the resources entrusted to our care and use. We believe that Ottawa Presbytery is truly being led by the Holy Spirit in this work, and we are delighted that we can be a test site for the whole United Church. Please consider this request prayerfully, and then join us in making *Project Footprint* a success.



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As our Creed says, “We are called to live with respect in Creation.” Now is the time to live out that calling.

For pastoral charges that may have made significant upgrades in the last five to ten years (and we are certainly aware of some), we would appreciate hearing from you in brief about your projects, their successes and any lessons learned, that could be of assistance to us in *Project Footprint*.

If you would like to learn more about the program, or have any questions about implementation of the form, please contact our *Project Footprint* Co-Chairs at opfootprint@gmail.com.

Many thanks,

Caroline

Guy

Rev. Caroline Penhale and Mr. Guy Faubert

Co-Chairs, *Project Footprint!*