



Ottawa Presbytery
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ACTION NEEDED

April 19, 2017

Dear Council Chairs and Office Administrators of Pastoral Charges,

Re: Project Footprint - We need your help!

The April 2015 meeting of Ottawa Presbytery adopted a Motion to reduce the Presbytery's global carbon footprint by 25% in five years--and thus created Ottawa Presbytery's "**Project Footprint!**"

We must construct a carbon footprint baseline for 2015, using utility data from our congregations. In 2020, this data will tell us whether we have met our carbon reduction target.

At the same time the information can point congregations to potential savings on heating and other power while reducing their carbon emissions.

With these goals in view, in February of 2016, we sent everyone in the Presbytery a letter and an excel spreadsheet and asked each congregation to fill in the spreadsheet with utility usage data. The overall response rate for this request was 31%--**so we still need utility usage data from 40 congregations.**

(If you are not certain whether your church has responded, please email the project team at opfootprint@gmail.com and we will let you know. We will also be happy to work with you if you would still like to engage directly in this way.)

However, since that correspondence, we have become aware of a simpler method for capturing the required utility data. With your permission, we can obtain the consumption data for this specific purpose on your behalf directly from the utility companies you use for heat and power. This will enable us to capture the data we need to help carry out the Presbytery Decision—and you won't have to do this part of the work yourselves. **We are coming to you now to invite that permission.**

In order to access your data directly from the utility, the Project Footprint team will need you to sign an information release form for each utility provider. If you are interested in pursuing this route, or have any questions, please email us at opfootprint@gmail.com. You should also provide your utility names and account numbers. We will then forward to you the appropriate information release forms and instructions for submission to each utility.

Whether you would prefer to complete the data spreadsheet yourself (as suggested in our first letter) or give us permission to obtain the same information directly from your utility, is your choice entirely. **Whichever method you choose, we do invite you to join with us and put the *Project Footprint* team in a position to establish Ottawa Presbytery's Carbon Footprint baseline, thus helping meet Presbytery's 2015 Goal.**

In faith, *and with many thanks for your early attention to this invitation,*

Caroline & Guy

Rev. Caroline Penhale & Mr. Guy Faubert

Project Footprint!, Ottawa Presbytery Environment & Climate Change Team

cc: Presbyters