

St. Simon's Anglican Church, Oakville: Green Parish Accreditation Program  
Silver Explanation

**1. The Niagara Home Challenge**

We had about 45% of our parishioners return the Niagara Home Challenge survey with good scores.

**3. Lighting**

Church lighting is now all LED bulbs.

**4. Water Use**

Aerators have been installed on all of our taps. We have a parishioner who is going to check for leaks for us.

**10. Fair Trade**

We serve only Fair Trade coffee and now serve Fair Trade tea as well (from Ten Thousand Villages). Fair Trade sugar was also purchased at Ten Thousand Villages and is available in our cupboard.

**11. Parish Grounds**

Our prayer garden was designed and planted to have only native plants. The shady spot also helps to make it pretty much water-free, except in extremely dry years. It takes a huge amount of mulch as you can appreciate so although we ask the town to donate the mulch, we can only do so every three years or so. No pesticides, fungicides or weed-killers are used in the garden. We also have shrubbery in our yard, very conservation friendly. Like the prayer garden, the shrubs do not need to be watered.

Last September, we made a floral arrangement from our own prayer garden which was up on the altar for a few weeks. This August, Green Facilitator (Emily) donated the flowers from her wedding to be used at the church, and these were from an eco-friendly florist in Toronto called "eco-stems" so all flowers were local or organic. We are planning on having another arrangement from our garden on Sun. Sept. 27, 2015.

In June, we did a Sunday school lesson about the importance of bees and we built mason bee houses out of soup cans, which we hung in our prayer garden and kids took home. There are several plants in the garden that provide food for butterflies and hummingbirds and we hope to plant more.

**12. Paper**

Our paper is FSC certified. Our paper towel is made from 100% unbleached recycled material and our toilet paper is 80% recycled material. We have a parish email list, so there is a lot of information distributed that way.

**13. Kitchen & Parish Events**

We consistently use reusable dishes and cutlery as well as reusable cloth tablecloths. Second-hand beer glasses were purchased this year to avoid the use of plastic cups at our pub nights and we've replaced plastic water bottles with water pitchers at these events as well. In 2014 we started using reusable dishes and water pitchers at all our

outdoor BBQs and promoted bringing your own water bottle or travel mug. Green Facilitator provided local fruit, veggies and juice from the farmers market for our Picnic in June 2014 and vegetarian options were available. We have served Niagara wine at at least three events in 2014/2015. Green Facilitator will try to continue to create awareness among event organizers about serving more local food/wine. We also offer the Halton Fresh Food Box program which promotes local produce.

#### **14. Recycle & Reuse**

There are posters on the bulletin board about community recycling facilities and re-use centres and parishioners were also informed through the bulletin. We promoted safe disposal of CFL bulbs through the Halton Orange Box Program. We have an orange box at church to collect them and also offered orange boxes to parishioners for their homes.

#### **15. Maintenance & Cleaning**

We have employed new cleaning staff and it is in our contract with them that they will only use eco-friendly products. Green Facilitator is getting in contact with them to ensure the products are EcoLogo. Kitchen cleaning products have all been replaced with NatureClean and Eco-Max alternatives. Instead of our usual Cleaning Day this year we did a "Green Cleaning Day" where we used these new products as well as NatureClean window cleaner instead of our usual Windex. Reusable cloths were provided. Green Facilitator safely disposed of several boxes of old cleaning products that were stored in our maintenance room.

We installed new bathroom air fresheners, as we have stopped the use of spray cans. We are now going with a service that has a water based formula that doesn't contain VOC. There's also no alcohol and it's non toxic. Service is provided by Biochem Environmental Solutions, which we already use for our hand sanitizers.

**\*Alternative:** In May 2015 we installed a tankless water heater for the kitchen which is more efficient than the old one. We also installed new electric and electronic window air conditioners in our offices, which are supposed to be more efficient than our old ones. Energy-saving outlets were also purchased for the offices. These may be considered small steps but I think these purchases show that our staff are choosing and looking for more efficient or eco-friendly products. The ultimate goal will be to have a green audit done so we will know what else we should plan on replacing.

**\*Extra Alternative:** Promoted Earth Hour (Sat. Mar. 29, 2014) by selling a local farmer's beeswax candles on Mar. 16 and Mar. 23, 2014. All of the candles were sold, \$150 worth of candles, which was paid to the farmer. An announcement was also made about Earth Hour in 2015. We did our annual Earth Day Cleanup on May 3, 2015 and included an Earth Sunday insert in the bulletin as well as some special prayers to reflect Earth Day.

**\*Extra Alternative #2:** In 2014 we turned all our washroom garbage bins into green bins. We also replaced our library garbage bin with a green bin, and replaced our kitchen garbage bin with a recycling bin to try to send less recyclable and compostable materials to landfill. We have posters to inform people of what goes in the different bins and have tried to spread the word to volunteers, renters and cleaning staff.