



Green Parish Accreditation

St. Johns Anglican Church, Squamish, is proud to have achieved the designation of Green Parish.

The debate about climate change is as much about morality and religion as it is about economics and science. Not only is it an environmental crisis. It is also a spiritual crisis. We desperately need a change in spirit.

That change in spirit needs to begin with sustainable values that recognize the interrelatedness of all life. Religious faith can be a major force for change towards sustainable development, sustainable communities, and a healthy environment. A major step forward would be to recognize that human beings are part of the created order and not separate from it.

What can churches do? For the past couple of years, St. John's has been working to demonstrate its commitment to environmental stewardship through the diocesan sponsored Green Parish Accreditation Program. The first step is to form a Green Parish Committee to lead the parish through the accreditation process. There are eight steps towards accreditation. These include energy conservation, recycling, transportation, lawn and garden care, education, communication, worship and liturgy, and environmental justice.



St. John members pick apples for Bear Aware



Energy Conservation: An energy audit was done to identify the lowest cost means of reducing energy consumption. The following measures were taken: (1) install new weather stripping on outside doors, (2) insulate hot water pipes, (3) replace incandescent light bulbs with compact florescent, install LED exit lights, install aerators on facets to restrict water flow.

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle: We don't use disposable cups or plates. We recycle all paper, metal cans, glass and plastic bottles. The church has an annual yard sale to divert household items and furniture from the land fills; **Transportation:** Car pooling encouraged

through sign-up, Secure bicycle storage space provided; **Lawn and Garden Care:** draught resistant plants reduce the need for watering, herbicides and pesticides are not used; **Communication:** Environmental Information Centre, Environmental notices in church website; **Education:** At least one educational event each year to study and discuss an environmental issue; **Worship and Liturgy:** At least one Sunday service each year dedicated to the environment, intention singing of songs with environmental themes, reading of scriptures with environmental themes; **Environmental Justice:** St. Johns promotes responsible disposal of household waste and removal of materials that attract bears to residential neighbourhoods; the parish is lobbying the City of Squamish to provide public bus service on Sundays.

For more information on church greening efforts, please check the GreeningSpirit Website: www.GreeningSpirit.ca