

SUCCESS STORY: ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL ADDS ENERGY CONSERVATION TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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St. John's Cathedral in Saskatoon is a beautiful, century old, cathedral on the bank of the South Saskatchewan River. As with all beautiful, historic properties, maintaining the building is a challenge. Their heritage designation provides access to some funding, but also means that they are limited in materials they can use and changes they can make to the building.

Bert Munro, Chair of St. John's Property Committee says that his "overarching desire is to maintain the asset with limited budget". While maintaining the asset, they work to upgrade the efficiency of the building at the same time.

In 2015, SES conducted an energy audit for St. John's, using a grant from Affinity Credit Union. We identified several opportunities to save electricity, gas, and water throughout the Cathedral, Columbarium, and Hall. St. John's Property Committee have acted on several of the recommendations.

Water consumption across the site was cut back by 34% in spite of an increase in outdoor watering. This was achieved by replacing a continuously flushing urinal with a sensed one, repairing a leak in the irrigation system, and repairing dripping taps and running toilets. All of these were situations where water was running through the system, but not providing a function.

Interior and exterior lighting upgrades helped to reduce electricity consumption at the Cathedral and Columbarium by 11%. They replaced 11,000W of existing lighting with 1,130W of LED fixtures. As well as the reduced energy costs, LED lamps last much longer, which is an added benefit for hard to reach lighting. Users have appreciated the improved quality of the lighting. Fixing some timers on their parking lot plugs helped reduce electricity consumption there by 18%.

Much trickier is upgrading insulation in an existing building. St. John's had to do some work on portions of the roof due to water leaks. When they had the roof apart, they took the opportunity to insulate the exposed areas. Their next big challenge is to find the funds necessary to replace the roofing on the main portion (Nave) of the Cathedral. During the re-roofing, they will have access to the ceiling of the Nave and will be able to insulate the largest part of the roof. And then it's on to upgrading the heating system.



For more information on how your business or nonprofit organization can save energy and water, contact SES Energy Conservation Coordinator Angie Bugg at angieb@environmentalsociety.ca or call 306.665.1915.



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