

Other Christian organisations caring for the Earth:

Operation Noah – focusing exclusively on climate change: Visit: www.operationnoah.org

A Rocha – focusing on educating and equipping the Church to care for God's Earth and practical involvement in nature conservation: Visit: www.arocha.org

Church of England guidance on getting to net-zero:
www.churchofengland.org/environment-and-climate-change

A Rocha UK manages the **Eco Church** scheme in England and Wales to help Churches demonstrate care for God's Earth. In Ireland and Scotland the scheme is still called Eco-congregation. It's about incorporating the biblical ethic of environmental stewardship into the spiritual values, practical action and community involvement of Church congregations.

Visit: www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk or
Visit: www.ecocongregationscotland.org or
Visit: www.ecocongregationireland.com

The successful completion of enough actions, in different areas of your Church's life and work, earns the prestigious Eco Church or Eco-congregation Award.

Also see **Cafod**: Visit: www.livesimplyaward@cafod.org.uk

Walking gently together

Wherever we are in life, it's easier to reach the destination if we travel together. If you would like to travel with us, join Green Christian.



Green Christian

About: We are a community of ordinary Christians from all backgrounds and traditions. Inspired by our faith, we work to care for Creation through prayer, living simply, public witness, campaigning and mutual encouragement. We walk alongside those of faith and no faith.

We welcome new members. Join us!

www.greenchristian.org.uk/connect/join-us/

Events: Conferences, retreats and workshops.

Campaigns/Projects including: Joy in Enough; Rainforest Fund Project; LOAF; Borrowed Time; Radical Presence, Way of Life Community.

Resources: annual **Storm of Hope Pamphlet**; **Leaflets** for use in Churches; twice yearly **Magazine**; monthly **Prayer Guide**; free **email newsletter** for all; **Video News, Members' email discussion group.**

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Visit:
www.greenchristian.org.uk/resources

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Eco-check-up for Churches



How green is your Church?

The Fold, above, is the first Church-owned community building in Britain built to Passivhaus-type standards: ultra-airtight, it also has PV solar panels and car charging points. We can't all build from new, but it's not difficult for Churches to become more eco-friendly, in their buildings and offices, as well as in individual lives and homes. You're probably already doing more than you think.

green christian

Environmental Check-Up

The questions below give you an idea of what is involved in an environmental check-up. On the back is information on how to become an Eco Church or Eco-congregation and some ideas on raising environmental awareness in your Church.

1. How regularly during the year are environmental concerns included in worship?
 - never
 - occasionally
 - only at special services e.g. harvest
 - frequently
2. Does your Church include Creation/environmental issues in its teaching, studying or preaching programme?

yes	no
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3. Has your Church involved young people in auditing and improving the environmental management of the premises?

yes	no
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4. Has your Church invited a speaker on environmental issues?

yes	no
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5. Have you insulated the church buildings wherever possible?

yes	no
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6. Do you choose appropriate size rooms wherever possible?

yes	no
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7. Do you timetable meetings to minimise heating use?

yes	no
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8. Have you fitted energy-saving light bulbs?

yes	no
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9. Do you encourage building users to switch off unnecessary lights and not leave items on stand-by (e.g. photocopier)?

yes	no
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10. Have you checked water outlets – and fixed drips and leaks?

yes	no
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11. Have you installed water-saving devices (e.g. dual flush toilets and low spray flow or auto turn-off taps)?

yes	no
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12. Have you checked the environmental policy of your bank to see if you are satisfied with it?

yes	no
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13. Do you use environmentally-friendly cleaning materials and paint?

yes	no
-----	----
14. Do you purchase Fair Trade products (e.g. tea and coffee)?

yes	no
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15. Do you use local suppliers where possible (so supporting the local economy)?

yes	no
-----	----
16. Do you use crockery rather than disposable cups and plates?

yes	no
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17. Does your church have collection facilities for recycling items which can be used by Church members, building users or local community (e.g. cans, spectacles, stamps, printer cartridges, clothes, shoes, foil)?

yes	no
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18. Do you purchase recycled paper and envelopes (to close the loop)?

yes	no
-----	----
19. Is your churchyard management wild-life friendly (e.g. minimal use of weedkillers and pesticides, leaving some areas unmown, valuing old trees, hedges, walls and stones)?

yes	no
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20. Does your churchyard have other features to benefit wildlife (e.g. bird feeding station, bird nest boxes, bat boxes, piles of leaves and rotting logs for insects and hedgehogs)?

yes	no
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21. Is there a place outside for prayer/contemplation/outdoor worship?

yes	no
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22. Does your Church magazine publish green tips?

yes	no
-----	----
23. Does your Church encourage walking, cycling and car sharing to church?

yes	no
-----	----

24. Does someone read the meters regularly to assess the church's energy use?

yes	no
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25. Has anyone calculated the carbon footprint of your buildings?

yes	no
-----	----
26. Is the congregation encouraged to reduce its carbon footprint in their everyday lives?

yes	no
-----	----
27. Does your Church support overseas development/climate adaptation initiatives?

yes	no
-----	----
28. Has your Church drawn on links that members have with environmental bodies?

yes	no
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29. Has your Church supported or initiated environmental community schemes (e.g. cleanups, involvement in a transition town group)?

yes	no
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The Next Steps

Pass this leaflet on to your Minister, and/or to your Church council. Ask them to celebrate what your Church is already doing well and to consider what further steps you can take to make your church more eco-friendly.

Ideas to raise environmental awareness at your Church

Especially useful is the Green Christian **ecocell programme**. For modules to use in group work, Bible reflections and measuring tools. Visit: www.greenchristian.org.uk/ecocell

Hold a **LOAF** meal to get people thinking about food issues: **LOAF** stands for **L**ocally produced, **O**rganically grown, **A**nimal friendly, **F**airly traded. Visit: www.greenchristian.org.uk/loaf

Produce an environmental policy for your Church.

Set up a Green Group.

Organise a green library.