



## Growing Greener Churches

Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham Environment Policy

I am pleased to endorse **Growing Greener Churches** and wish to encourage every parish to actively engage with it.

This policy has been developed to provide a co-ordinated response from the Diocese to widespread and growing concern about the impact of human activity on the natural environment, particularly in the area of climate change.

As Christians we believe that "the earth is the Lord's, and everything in it" (Psalm 24:1) and that it is our duty to care for God's creation. The instruction to Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:28 to "fill the earth and subdue it" is refined by the subsequent "to work it and take care of it" of Genesis 2:15.

It is acknowledged and accepted that climate change is not the only environmental issue facing us today. National themes such as the built environment, management of the countryside for farming and leisure, road and rail transport; as well as local issues like litter problems, waste disposal and degradation of community facilities; all have a deep and immediate effect on our every day lives.

Actions to address these and many other areas are included in the **Core Document** and **Action Plan**.

Climate change is, however, the greatest threat to the well-being of society and the world as a whole. Caused by increasing levels of carbon dioxide and other 'greenhouse gases' in the atmosphere, the effects of climate change will make everything else we do ineffective in the not too distant future.

That is why there is increasing urgency about the need to radically reduce global carbon emissions.

**Growing Greener Churches** has been designed to help churches to take action where they can, to encourage and enable rather than to dictate. Nevertheless, I urge each parish to identify and commission a person to be their "environment champion" and to pass their details on to Shelagh Baird-Smith, Diocesan Environment Officer.

I am delighted that this Diocese has agreed to take action to help safeguard our environment, local and global.

The Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham



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## Action Plan

### For churches:

1. Identify and commission a person or group of people to be your 'environment champion' to lead your churches development on environmental issues:
  - Register your "environment champion" with the Diocesan Environment Officer
  - PCCs and clergy are encouraged to access training and support in the greening of their churches

2. Audit your church.

What environmentally positive actions are you already taking in the areas of:

- faith and worship
- environmental awareness education for all ages
- church administration and care of church buildings, churchyards and other land
- personal lifestyles and community engagement

**To help with this exercise "Church check-up" from eco-congregation is included with this pack.**

(While not compulsory, registering with Eco-Congregation will help them to know how churches are using their resources and you can even apply for an award!)

### **Celebrate what you are doing already to benefit the environment!**

3. Identify areas where you could do more:

- Choose one or two to work on this year, and plan to take on more areas in future

4. Engage with "Shrinking the Footprint", the Church of England's campaign to reduce churches' carbon footprint by 60%:

- Monitor and return your energy use figures, aiming to reduce them by 3% year on year

**A copy of "How many light bulbs does it take to change a Christian" is included to help with this.**

5. Make use of the Diocesan Environment Officer and steering group for advice and resources and tell them about your success stories.

6. Encourage every member of your fellowship to make personal lifestyle choices which benefit the environment:

- e.g. by committing to saving energy through the Energy Saving Trust [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)
- Support people involved in the local community in taking a lead through councils, business, schools etc

7. Seek out existing groups and networks in your parish and join them:

- e.g. eco-teams, Churches Together, schools

8. Nottinghamshire County, City and District councils have resources available – use them:

- e.g. Everybody's Talking [www.everybodys-talking.org](http://www.everybodys-talking.org)
- Agenda21-Climate Change Partnership [localagenda21@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:localagenda21@nottsc.gov.uk)

## Action Plan

### **For the Diocese and Dunham House:**

1. The Diocese as an organisation will support, encourage and resource parishes in carrying out the Environment Policy.
2. Deaneries will be encouraged to form Deanery groups of "green champions" to work strategically.
3. The Environment Officer and Steering Group will provide information and tools for action to the parishes.
4. The Diocesan Advisory Committee will consider the environmental impact of all proposals and plans.
5. The Environment Officer will work with Diocesan structures to consider the environmental impact of all activities.
6. Energy use in all Diocesan buildings will be monitored and reductions aimed at in line with national targets.
7. Environmental concerns and wildlife habitats will be taken into account in managing diocesan glebe land and other property owned by the diocese.
8. Environmental concerns will be taken into account in purchasing, i.e. recycled/recyclable, sustainable, local or Fairtrade:
  - Investigate and promote central buying e.g. paper, low energy light bulbs (through Ecclesiastical's Churches Purchasing Scheme [www.cpsonline.co.uk](http://www.cpsonline.co.uk))
  - Investigate Good Energy's affiliation scheme and encourage all parishes to switch to them or another green energy supplier. ([www.good-energy.co.uk](http://www.good-energy.co.uk))



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## Basic science

The following extracts from various sources are offered as a starting point to understanding the scientific basis for concern. Anyone with an interest in learning more is encouraged to follow the links to the various sources and to explore the many other places where information is available.

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### **John Ray Initiative**

Connecting environment, science and Christianity

Extract from

#### **GLOBAL WARMING, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY**

**Challenge to Scientists, Policy Makers and Christians**

**John Houghton** PRESIDENT, THE JOHN RAY INITIATIVE

Briefing Paper 14 second edition revised Jan 2008

I begin with a quick summary of the basic science. By absorbing infra-red or 'heat' radiation from the earth's surface, 'greenhouse gases' present in the atmosphere, such as water vapour and carbon dioxide, act as blankets over the earth's surface, keeping it on average 20 or 30°C warmer than it would otherwise be. The existence of this natural 'greenhouse effect' has been known for nearly two hundred years; it is essential to the provision of our current climate to which ecosystems and we humans have adapted.

A record of past climate and atmospheric composition is provided from analyses of the composition of the ice and air bubbles trapped in the ice obtained from different depths from cores drilled into the Antarctic or Greenland ice caps. From such records we find that, since the beginning of the industrial revolution around 1750, one of the greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide has increased by nearly 40% and is now at a higher concentration in the atmosphere than it has been probably for millions of years. Chemical analysis demonstrates that this increase is due largely to the burning of fossil fuels - coal, oil and gas. If no action is taken to curb these emissions, the carbon dioxide concentration will rise during the 21<sup>st</sup> century to two or three times its preindustrial level.

[www.jri.org.uk](http://www.jri.org.uk)

\* \* \* \* \*

### **STERN REVIEW: The Economics of Climate Change**

The scientific evidence is now overwhelming: climate change is a serious global threat, and it demands an urgent global response.

Climate change will affect the basic elements of life for people around the world – access to water, food production, health, and the environment. Hundreds of millions of people could suffer hunger, water shortages and coastal flooding as the world warms.

The risks of the worst impacts of climate change can be substantially reduced if greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere can be stabilised between 450 and 550ppm CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e). The current level is 430ppm CO<sub>2</sub>e today, and it is rising at more than 2ppm each year. Stabilisation in this range would require emissions to be at least 25% below current levels by 2050, and perhaps much more.

Ultimately, stabilisation – at whatever level – requires that annual emissions be brought down to more than 80% below current levels.

[www.hm-treasury.gov.uk](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk)

“Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level.

Eleven of the last twelve years (1995-2006) rank among the twelve warmest years in the instrumental record of global surface temperature (since 1850)....

Rising sea level is consistent with warming...

Observed decreases in snow and ice extent are also consistent with warming. Satellite data since 1978 show that annual average Arctic sea ice extent has shrunk by 2.7% per decade...

From 1900 to 2005 precipitation increased significantly in eastern parts of North and South America, northern Europe and northern and central Asia but declined in the Sahel, the Mediterranean, southern Africa and parts of southern Asia....”

*From Introduction; Summary for policymakers of the Synthesis Report of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report*

**The IPCC Fourth Assessment**

**Working Group Reports: Key findings**

**Human contribution to climate change**

Global atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases **increased markedly as a result of human activities**

In 2005 concentration of CO2 **exceeded by far the natural range** over the last 650,000 years

During the 20th century, glaciers and ice caps have experienced **widespread mass losses** and have contributed to **sea level rise**

Further **decline of mountain glaciers** is projected to **reduce water availability** in many regions.

[www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch)

\* \* \* \* \*

From **“CLIMATE CHANGE controversies – a simple guide”**

Published by the Royal Society

**Misleading argument 1**

*The Earth’s climate is always changing and this is nothing to do with humans.*

*Even before the industrial revolution, when humans began pumping carbon dioxide into the atmosphere on a large scale, the earth experienced warmer periods.*

**What does the science say?**

It is true that the world has experienced warmer or colder periods in the past without any interference from humans. The ice ages are well-known examples of global changes to the climate. There have also been regional changes such as periods known as the ‘Medieval Warm Period’, when grapes were grown extensively in England, and the ‘Little Ice Age’, when the River Thames sometimes froze over. However, in contrast to these climate phases, the increase of three-quarters of a degree centigrade (0.74°C) in average global temperatures that we have seen over the last century is larger than can be accounted for by natural factors alone.

The Earth’s climate is complex and influenced by many things – particularly changes in the Earth’s orbit in relation to the Sun, which has driven the cycles of ice ages in the past. Volcanic eruptions and variations in the energy being emitted from the Sun have also had an effect. But even when we take all these factors into account, we cannot explain the temperature rises that we have seen over the last 100 years both on land and in the oceans – for example, eleven of the last twelve years have been the hottest since records started in 1850.

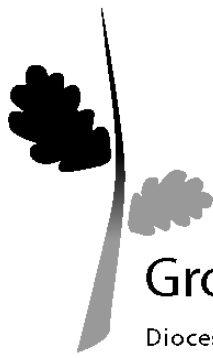
So what is causing this increase in average global temperature? The natural greenhouse gas effect keeps the Earth around 30°C warmer than it would otherwise be and, without it, the Earth would be extremely cold.

It works because greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, but mostly water vapour, act like a blanket around the Earth. These gases allow the Sun’s rays to reach the Earth’s surface but hinder the heat they create from escaping back into space. Indeed, the ability of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to trap heat in this way has been understood for nearly 200 years and is regarded as firmly established science.

Any increases in the levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere mean that more heat is trapped and global temperatures increase – an effect known as ‘global warming’. We know from looking at gases found trapped in cores of polar ice that the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are now 35 per cent greater than they have been for at least the last 650,000 years. From the radioactivity and chemical composition of the gas we know that this is mainly due to the burning of fossil fuels, as well as the production of cement and the widespread burning of the world’s forests.

The increase in global temperature is consistent with what science tells us we should expect when the levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere increase in the way that they have.

It has been alleged that the increased level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is due to emissions from volcanoes, but these account for less than one per cent of the emissions due to human activities.



# Growing Greener Churches

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## Core document

### **We affirm the Fifth Mark of Mission as central to the life of the Diocese.**

*"To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the earth."*

As a Diocese with a vision and template for mission we seek to apply the above through our core values:

#### **Discerning God**

- The scriptural witness clearly points to the action and presence of God in creation
- "The Earth is the Lord's" and we are called to care for it
- Jesus came "to bring good news to the poor" – who are most vulnerable to climate change and environmental degradation

#### **Valuing people**

- To live for Christ is to love both our neighbour and God's creation in which we belong together and on which we all depend
- The effect of our actions on the environment affects other people now as well as future generations, especially the poor and vulnerable

#### **Serving community**

- God's love compels us to pray and act: personally to renounce unsustainable choices locally to protect and improve our environment, and globally to transform unjust structures and unsustainable patterns of development
- Improving our environment, local and global, benefits us all

#### **Enabling change**

- We want our churches to become places where people and communities grow in Christ-centred environmental awareness and discipleship, in their worship, fellowship, life and witness
- Churches should promote environmental awareness and model good practice

## **We commit ourselves to:**

- Study what the Bible teaches about our responsibility for the environment, as well as the current teaching of the church and the best of secular research and wisdom
- Reflect concern for the environment in our worship and prayer
- Do all we can to minimise our environmental impact, corporately and personally
- Measurably reduce our energy consumption and carbon emissions
- Promote environmental awareness and model good practice in our communities
- Put environmental concern at the core of all our plans
- Lead by example from the centre
- Re-assess this policy every two years

#### **The Five Marks of Mission**

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the earth.

*Adopted by Lambeth Conference 1988 and General Synod, Church of England 1996*

# eco-



# congregation

**an environmental toolkit for churches**

**Module 1**

# church check-up

Eco-congregation (England & Wales) is a project of  
A Rocha UK, 13 Avenue Rd, Southall, Middlesex UB1 3BL Registered Charity 1089276

***The Eco-congregation environmental check-up is designed to help churches:***

1. Identify and affirm their existing environmental ministry
2. Prioritise what they would like to do next and identify supportive resources

**Step 1 Getting started**

It is recommended that you form a small group to work through the check-up and prioritise your first steps. Eco-congregation offers resources to support your chosen priorities – the following sections 2-12 each has an associated module. To order your choice of modules free of charge, complete the form with:

- Contact details
- An affirmation your church has undertaken the check-up, or a comparable audit
- An affirmation that a church decision-making meeting approves that environmental activities form part of your church's life and mission (this step helps gain support for subsequent activities)
- Your church's choice of resource modules

**Step 2 Get Cracking!**

On receipt of the resources, distribute them to appropriate people/groups in your church (e.g. worship resources to worship leader, property resources to property committee) and encourage the development and implementation of your plans.

**Step 3 Go for an Award**

Churches that undertake initiatives with spiritual, practical and community dimensions are encouraged to apply for the Eco-congregation Award. Keep a record of your church's environmental activities to aid any application.

## 1. Life and Mission of the Church

The Five Marks of Mission is a model that can help churches identify their strengths and weaknesses. First formulated by the 1988 Lambeth Conference and adopted since by many denominations and ecumenical bodies, it has been widely used in church life. Note your church's activities for each Mark and assess whether care of the environment has sufficient weight within your church's mission:

**Mark of Mission**

**Activities**

**Mark 1:** To proclaim the good news of the Kingdom, e.g. preaching.

**Mark 2:** To teach, baptise and nurture new believers, e.g. children's work, membership/Alpha Course.

**Mark 3:** To respond to human need by loving service, e.g. pastoral visiting.

**Mark 4:** To seek to transform unjust structures of society, e.g. supporting a housing charity, promoting fair trade.

**Mark 5:** To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation; to sustain and renew the life of the earth, e.g. having energy efficient premises, wildlife garden.

A church with a holistic mission has activities related to each of the Five Marks.

## **How to complete the check-up**

Use sections 2-11 to identify your church's current environmental good practice and future priorities. For some questions you may wish to tick more than one box (e.g. an environmental feature may be present but also have the potential to be further developed). There is space to write additional notes on each section if you would like to, but it is not essential. Skip those sections or tick boxes that aren't relevant for your church.

### **2. Worship**

Worship is the prime focus of Christian life from which the Church's life and mission flows. Dunblane Cathedral held a St Francis' Tide service focussing on creation care which included an act of commitment by the whole church to care better for God's creation. This section is designed to help you identify how thankfulness and concern for God's creation are expressed in your worship:

**How regularly during the year are environmental concerns included in worship?**

- Never       Occasionally       Only at special services       Frequently  
e.g. Harvest Festival, Rogation Sunday,  
Conservation Sunday (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in  
June), St Francis' Day (4<sup>th</sup> October),  
One World Week

**In your Church's prayer life do you:**

(tick any that apply to your church)

- Praise God the creator       Say sorry for the harm done to the environment  
 Give thanks to God for the gift of creation       Pray for the healing of creation

**Does your Church connect with God's gift of creation through worship?**

(tick any that apply to your church)

- Through occasional outdoor services       through prayer walks  
 Using natural materials within worship       choosing organic bread and wine

**Does your Church sing hymns or songs that celebrate the wonder of creation and express the calling to care for the environment?**

- Regularly       On special Sundays       Hardly ever

*Notes:*

**Module 2, 'Celebrating Creation!' contains ideas and resources for worship teams and leaders**

### 3. Theology

Theology is concerned with giving and exploring a rational and orderly account of Christian belief, drawing on Biblical studies, Church tradition and history, ethics and the context in which the Church is present. St Mary the Virgin, Monkseaton, explored aspects of creation/green- theology over a five week period. Does your church:

	Yes	No	Has potential to develop
have access to Christian environmental resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
participate in or organise study/exploration events that include environmental issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
include creation/environmental issues in its teaching or preaching programme?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Notes:

**Module 3, 'Creation and Christianity' contains some eco- or green theological ideas together with suggestions for further reading.**

### 4. Children's work

Christian work with children can inform, inspire and encourage youngsters as they grow in faith. As part of a special creation-focussed service, the children at St John's, Hamilton gave each member a gift of bulbs potted in a re-used plastic cup. Use the check-up to identify if your children's programme (infant and primary age) includes environmental issues and the potential for developing this ministry:

Category of activity	Sometimes (tick those that apply to your church)	Never	Has potential to develop
Junior Church/Sunday School	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uniformed organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playgroups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
After school/holiday clubs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In schools e.g. through Assemblies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All age worship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Notes:

**Module 4, 'Acorns to oaks' includes inspiration and ideas for incorporating indoor and outside environmental activities in children's work**

## 5. Youth work

Churches undertake a range of youth work including groups meeting on Sundays, church and open youth groups and mid-week uniformed organisations. Stirling Methodist Church's young people prepared and helped to implement an environmental action plan for their church buildings. If your church undertakes youth work, review your existing activities and consider future possibilities:

<b>Have done</b>	<b>Could consider</b>	<b>Activities</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hold a debate on environmental issues and personal responsibility
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Develop creation-care material to offer in worship
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Undertake a practical environmental/conservation project
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arrange a ramble(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Organise an environmentally focussed community event (with young people from the whole community)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Assess how environmentally-friendly the church is and make recommendations for action

*Notes:*

**Module 5, 'Tread gently – go green' has ideas and activities for youth work.**

## 6. All-age and Adult education

Church is a place where people can grow in faith from cradle to grave. Relating key topics, like environmental issues, with Christian thinking can be inspirational and faith-affirming. St John the Evangelist, C of E/Methodist LEP explored a creation-focused Bible study and their minister led some environmentally-themed assemblies at the local school. What opportunities are or could be available for your church:

<b>Have done</b>	<b>Could consider</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Undertake an environmental Bible study
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Invite a speaker on environmental issues
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Organise/participate in a creation-care Lent group

*Notes:*

**Module 6, 'Exploring God's green word' includes two sets of Bible studies and an address suitable for house groups or sermon preparation**

## 7. Church property

Good stewardship of energy and maintenance issues can both reduce your Church's impact on the environment and save your Church money, particularly in the long-term. Kirkwall East Church incorporated low energy lighting circuits and a high standard of insulation in its plans for renovations of the church. Assess your churches current environmental stewardship of property (sanctuary, halls, clergy housing) and the potential for developing this:

<b>Have done</b>	<b>Could consider</b>	<b>Energy- heating and light</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monitor energy consumption regularly (monthly?) to check trends
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Switch to 'green' electricity (electricity from renewable sources)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Regularly service boiler or heating appliances
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Choose appropriate sized rooms for activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Timetable meetings to minimise heating use
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heating system with timer and thermostatic controls
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Commission an energy/environmental consultation (particularly useful if considering a new heating system or refurbishment or if any boiler is older than 15 years)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fit draft excluders around windows and doors to reduce heat loss
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Install appropriate levels of insulation where appropriate
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clean windows to maximise natural light!
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Encourage building users to switch off unnecessary lights and not leave items on stand-by (e.g. photocopier)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Replace cracked or broken windowpanes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Installed low-energy light bulbs where appropriate

<b>Have done</b>	<b>Could consider</b>	<b>Water</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check water outlets – fix drips and leaks
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Install water-saving devices e.g. dual flush toilets and low spray flow or auto turn-off taps
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Collect rainfall from down pipes for use in garden

<b>Have done</b>	<b>Could consider</b>	<b>Building maintenance</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Choose timber from sustainably managed forests, and reclaimed materials where appropriate

*Notes:*

**Module 7, 'Greening the cornerstone' includes ideas and sources of resources to help Churches put God's House in green order**

## 8. Church management

Churches are responsible for the good stewardship of money and a range of consumables. North Church in Perth re-cycle their printer and photocopier cartridges and the plastic milk cartons used by the catering team. Use this section to assess your church's existing good practice and identify issues for consideration and action:

<b>Have done</b>	<b>Could consider</b>	<b>Financial management &amp; purchasing policy</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check the environmental policy of your bank and see if you are satisfied with it
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have an ethical investment policy for any savings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use environmentally-friendly cleaning materials & paint
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Purchase recycled paper and envelopes (to close the loop)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Purchase fairly-traded products (e.g. tea and coffee)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use local suppliers where possible (so promoting a sustainable local economy and reducing transportation)

<b>Have done</b>	<b>Could consider</b>	<b>Catering</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use crockery rather than disposable cups and plates
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use farmers markets and other local suppliers (to promote local economy and reduce food miles)

<b>Have done</b>	<b>Could consider</b>	<b>Waste minimisation</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Collection facilities for recycling items that church members, building users or local community can patronise (e.g. paper, cans, spectacles, stamps, printer cartridges, clothes, shoes, foil)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hold jumble sales to raise funds, recycle goods and promote the availability of goods at affordable prices

*Notes:*

**Module 8, 'Greening the purse strings' includes ideas for good stewardship of financial, catering and purchasing matters**

## 9. Church Land

Many churches are responsible for land varying in size from a tiny patch to a large acreage. St Saviours Episcopal Church in Bridge of Allan carried out a survey of their grounds and are now planning a bird feeding station and other improvements for wildlife. Use this section to assess the ecological value, value to the community and attractiveness of your church's plot and the potential to develop it:

<b>Present</b>	<b>Potential to develop</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Management that is wildlife-friendly</b> (e.g. minimal use of weedkillers and pesticides, leaving some areas unmown, valuing old trees, hedges, walls and stones)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Native plant species and plants that benefit wildlife</b> (e.g. flowers used by moths and butterflies, berry-bearing trees for birds, hawthorn and blackthorn)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Other features to benefit wildlife</b> (e.g. bird feeding station, bird nest boxes, bat boxes, piles of leaves and rotting logs for insects and hedgehogs)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Visually attractive planting/features</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Area for prayer/contemplation/outdoor worship</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Area for recreation</b>

*Notes:*

**Module 9, 'Planting and conserving Eden' includes ideas, inspiration and sources of resources for churches to:**

- **assess the ecological value of their land and develop a management plan**
- **improve the community benefit or wildlife value of their plot**

## 10. Personal lifestyle

More people attend church week by week than participate with any other voluntary body. Callander Church publish 'green tips' in the church magazine and the local community paper. Use this section to assess what your church is currently doing to encourage individuals to green their lifestyle and the potential to develop this mission

<b>Have done</b>	<b>Could consider</b>	<b>Greening personal lifestyle</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Publish green tips in any church/parish magazine
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Promote awareness through posters or information from environmental organisations (e.g. home energy audit)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Encourage recycling by providing collection points or informing people of civic facilities

*Notes:*

**Module 10, 'Green choices' includes information and tips to green lifestyles.**

## 11. Community outreach

Churches can work with and through their local community to improve their neighbourhood. Dalbeattie Parish Church held services in the forest as part of Treefest, attracting people who don't normally attend church. Assess the links that your Church already has in the local community and the potential for further development.

Have done	Could consider	Community outreach/mission
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Establish links with community organisations with a view to sharing your environmental ministry (e.g. schools, youth groups, local environmental bodies)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Advise building users of your environmental concerns and request that they utilise any environmental facilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Participate in local environmental initiatives or policy formation – Local Authorities can advise
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Draw on links that members have with environmental bodies e.g. Friends of the Earth, Wildlife Trust, RSPB
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Support or initiate community schemes with a positive environmental element (e.g Clean-up, LETS, Credit Union)

Notes:

**Module 11, 'Community Matters' includes stories, ideas and further contacts for undertaking work with and through local communities.**

## 12. Overseas Concerns

Living simply that others may simply live is a facet of Christian life. Clarendon Park Baptist/Methodist LEP established a thriving Traidcraft stall in their church and sell the products at other local outlets. What does or can your church do to benefit the environment and people across the world?

Have done	Could consider	Community outreach/mission
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Support the work of Christian development agencies (e.g. Christian Aid, Tearfund, Cafod, Trocaire or SCIAF)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Initiate or participate in activities in One World Week
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Promote fair trade
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Explore environmental issues through any linked or twinned overseas community or church
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Support the work of international conservation and environment agencies (e.g. A Rocha, WWF, Friends of the Earth)

Notes:

**Module 12, 'Global neighbours' includes ideas and contacts to help churches think and act locally to promote environmental care globally**

## Summary and Action Plan

What is your church already doing to care for creation?

What are the first three things you would like to do to improve your care of creation and which modules will help you tackle them?

### Actions

### Modules to order

1. Something 'spiritual':
2. Something practical:
3. Something which reaches out:

## About Eco-congregation

Eco-congregation is an ecumenical environmental project for churches in Britain and Ireland. It provides free resources, support and an Award scheme to help churches to consider environmental issues in the context of their Christian life and mission and to take positive action. Eco-congregation was originally developed by the environmental charity ENCAMS on behalf of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI). It is now overseen by CTBI (Environmental Issues Network) and delivered by A Rocha UK.

### For more information contact:

Jo Rathbone  
Eco-congregation (England & Wales)  
Arthur Rank Centre  
Stoneleigh Park  
Warwickshire CV8 2LZ  
Tel: 024 7669 2491  
Email: [ecocongregation@arocha.org](mailto:ecocongregation@arocha.org)  
Web: [www.ecocongregation.org/englandwales](http://www.ecocongregation.org/englandwales)

### Other Christian environmental organisations supporting Eco-congregation

**A Rocha** – Christians in Conservation is an international conservation organisation working to show God's love for all creation. Web site: [www.arocha.org.uk](http://www.arocha.org.uk)

**Christian Ecology Link** – is a membership organisation for those who wish to demonstrate care for God's creation in their faith and lifestyle. Web site: [www.christian-ecology.org.uk](http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk)

The **John Ray Initiative** (JRI) is an educational charity with a vision to bring together scientific and Christian understandings of the environment. Web site [www.jri.org.uk](http://www.jri.org.uk)

# eco-congregation resources order form

To order Eco-Congregation resource modules free of charge complete this form indicating:

1. your contact and church details
2. your choice of modules (overleaf)
3. that you have worked through the churches environmental check-up or a comparable audit
4. that a church decision-making body affirms that environmental activities form part of your church's life and mission.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Full Name of Church .....

Denomination of Church .....

Title and Name of Contact Person.....  
(Green Apostle/Environmental Co-ordinator)

Address of Contact Person.....

.....

County ..... Postcode .....

Tel: ..... Fax:.....

Email address:.....

My contact details may be passed to a third party\*    yes\*     no

\* e.g. a church/denominational contact, local authority environmental officer but never for commercial purposes

Size of Church (members/regular worshippers) Under 50  51-200  200+

Location: Rural  Suburban  Town/City Centre  Inner City

Name of Church decision-making body which approved this order:

.....

Date of Meeting: .....

Position of Church Officer chairing the meeting: .....

---

I affirm that environmental issues/caring for God's creation form part of our church's life and mission and that we have worked through the churches environmental check-up in module 1 or a comparable environmental audit

Name of Church Officer .....

Signature of Church Officer .....

# eco-congregation resources order form

Please tick the modules that your church would like to receive:

## Grounding in Faith

- Module 2 Celebrating creation!**  
Ideas and resources for worship
- Module 3 Creation and Christianity**  
Some green theological perspectives

## Growing in Faith

- Module 4 Acorn to oaks**  
Ideas and activities for children's work
- Module 5 Tread gently – go green**  
Ideas and activities for youth groups
- Module 6 Exploring God's green word**  
An address and two sets of Bible Studies for house groups

## Managing in Faith

- Module 7 Greening the cornerstone**  
Guidelines on caring for Church premises
- Module 8 Greening the purse strings**  
Management of financial, catering and purchasing matters
- Module 9 Planting and conserving Eden**  
Practical ideas and advice to care for Church grounds and land

## Living in Faith

- Module 10 Green choices**  
Information and suggestions to green personal lifestyles
- Module 11 Community matters**  
Ideas to help Churches work with, through and for their local community
- Module 12 Global neighbours**  
Sources and resources to help Churches think globally and act locally.

### Please note:

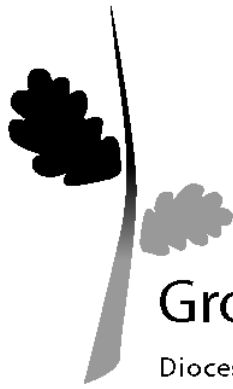
- to save resources only one copy of each module is available per Church
- modules are also downloadable from: [www.ecocongregation.org/englandwales](http://www.ecocongregation.org/englandwales) under 'Free resources' from the left hand menu
- churches may freely photocopy modules (the text version on the web copies well)
- it is recommended that you only order as many modules as you can use
- other modules may be requested later without completing a second form

### **Return this form:**

#### **For England and Wales:**

**Post:** Eco-congregation Resources, Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire  
CV8 2LZ

**Email:** [ecocongregation@arocha.org](mailto:ecocongregation@arocha.org)



# Growing Greener Churches

Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham Environment Policy

## Sources of further information

### **Environmental Organisations**

#### **Christian Ecology Link**

CEL, 3 Bond Street, Lancaster LA1 3ER.  
[www.christian-ecology.org.uk](http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk)  
tel: 01524 36241 info@christian-ecology.org.uk

#### **Arthur Rank Centre & Eco-congregation**

Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire,  
CV8 2LZ. tel 024 7669 2491  
[www.ecocongregation.org/englandwales](http://www.ecocongregation.org/englandwales)  
ecocongregation@arocha.org

#### **The Conservation Foundation**

1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR.  
tel: 0207 591 3111  
[www.conservationfoundation.co.uk](http://www.conservationfoundation.co.uk) [click Parish Pumps]

#### **A Rocha UK**

13 Avenue Road, Southall, Middlesex  
UB1 3BL  
tel: 0208 5745935  
[www.arocha.org.uk](http://www.arocha.org.uk) uk@arocha.org

### **Agencies**

#### **Christian Aid**

35 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL  
tel: 020 7620 4444  
[www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

#### **World Development Movement**

[www.wdm.org.uk](http://www.wdm.org.uk)

### **Science**

**John Ray Initiative;** connecting Environment, Science  
and Christianity.  
[www.jri.org.uk](http://www.jri.org.uk)

#### **Stern Review**

[www.hm-treasury.gov.uk](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk)

### **Energy**

#### **Energy Saving Trust**

[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)

#### **Good Energy**

[www.good-energy.co.uk](http://www.good-energy.co.uk)

#### **Operation Noah**

The Grayston Centre, 28 Charles Square, London  
N1 6HT tel: 020 7324 4761 or 020 7324 4760  
[www.operationnoah.org](http://www.operationnoah.org)

#### **Shrinking the Footprint**

MPA Division, Archbishops' Council, Church House, Great  
Smith Street, London SW1P 3NZ  
[www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org](http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org)  
shrinkingthefootprint@c-of-e.org.uk

#### **Natural England**

Natural England, 1 East Parade, Sheffield, S1 2ET  
Tel: 0114 241 8920 [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)  
**Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Area Manager** -  
Tom Moat - Tel: 01629 816651  
Email: [tom.moat@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:tom.moat@naturalengland.org.uk)

#### **Tearfund**

100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE  
tel: 0845 355 8355  
[www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org)

#### **DFID - UK Department for International Development**

[www.dfid.gov.uk](http://www.dfid.gov.uk)

#### **International Panel on Climate Change**

[www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch)

#### **Royal Society**

[www.royalsoc.ac.uk](http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk)

#### **The Carbon Trust**

[www.carbontrust.co.uk/energy](http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/energy)

#### **Government information**

[www.direct.gov.uk/en/Environmentandgreenerliving](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Environmentandgreenerliving)

## Book list

- Planetwise** by Dave Bookless  
publisher: IVP ISBN 9 781844 742516
- Sharing God's Planet** by Mission & Public Affairs Council  
publisher: Church House Publishing ISBN 0 7151 4068 X
- A Christian Approach to the Environment**  
publisher: The John Ray Initiative ISBN 0 9550878 0 5
- Doing the Right Thing** by Rob Frost  
publisher: Monarch ISBN 9781 8542 48381
- Kingfisher's Fire** by Peter Harris  
publisher: Monarch Books ISBN 97818 5424 8480
- Cherishing the Earth** by Martin Hodson & Margot Hodson  
publisher: Lion ISBN 97818 5424 8411
- Poor No More** by Peter Grant  
publisher: Lion ISBN 97818 5424 8404
- A Future and a Hope** by Mike Hollow  
publisher: Lion ISBN 97818 5424 8657
- Christianity, Climate Change and Sustainable Living**  
by Nick Spencer & Robert White  
publisher: SPCK ISBN 97802 8105 8334
- Saving Planet Earth** by Colin A Russell  
publisher: Authentic Lifestyle ISBN 97818 5078 7716
- A Moral Climate: The Ethics of Global Warming**  
by Michael S Northcott  
publisher: Darton, Longman & Todd ISBN 97802 3252 6684
- Growing Green** by Christina Goodings (for children)  
publisher: Lion ISBN 97807 4596 0746
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** by Nicky Scott  
Publisher: GreenBooks ISBN 19039 98409

**A Rocha Resource Pack** by Dave Bookless DVD & CD-ROM

**Planetwise** DVD & CD-ROM materials for churches

Both above available from A Rocha



# Growing Greener Churches

Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham Environment Policy

## Theology

### **Foreword to *Sharing God's Planet - a Christian vision for a sustainable future***

#### **The Right Revd Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury**

Early modern religion contributed to the idea that the fate of nature is for it to be bossed around by a detached sovereign will, whether divine or human.

As a counter-balance to this attitude of lofty separation, I want to suggest a Christian reason for regarding ecology as a matter of justice for the human and the non-human world.

Creation is an act of communication. It is God expressing his intelligence through every existing thing. The divine logos spoken of at the beginning of St John's Gospel is that by which everything comes to be. As Maximus the Confessor says, each existent reality is itself a logos - a word, an intelligible structure - which carries in its own specific, unique way the universal logos within it. This implies that each thing communicates the character of God, by virtue of the eternal Word.

So to penetrate the workings of the world, to understand its intelligible shape, is to come into contact with a divine action that is reasonable, consistent with itself. To understand, or more accurately to hear, that which the world communicates, is to hear God's love and God's glory.

To do this, human beings have to tune in; quite simply, to listen, rather than to impose our own prejudiced interpretations of what the world ought to be. In the language of Jewish scripture, true thinking, true knowing of the world is becoming aligned with God's wisdom, which is God's self-consistency in purpose and action.

This can be experienced and understood as a living principle in the universe as it is. The Christian reason for regarding ecology as a matter of justice, then, is that God's self-sharing love is what animates every object and structure and situation in the world. Responses to the world that are unaware of this are neither truthful nor sustainable. To be aware of this is to enter into relationship, for the self-sharing love of God is not simply something we admire, but something in which we fully participate. We are not consumers of what God has made; we are in communion with it.

**+ Rowan Cantuar**

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **From; *Why should Christians care for the environment?***

by Marika Rose and Jason Fletcher, Jubilee Centre, Tearfund

The language of "dominion" over the earth is sometimes (mis)taken as license to treat the earth however we want, but a careful reading of the Bible rules this out. First, this language of "dominion" is balanced by the language of Genesis 2:15, where humans are put on the earth to till ("to work, serve") and to keep ("to guard, protect") it.

Second, while the language of "dominion" does imply some degree of power or authority, it begs the question of how that power and authority should be exercised. Our rule, as his image bearers, is to be modelled after God's rule. Not only does He delight in his creation, but He takes care of the meek and does justice for the orphan and the oppressed (Psalm 10:16-18). He is the shepherd King who promises, "I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak" (Ezekiel 34:16). Moreover, we ought not to read the command to have dominion without remembering Paul's exhortation to "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave" (Philippians 2:5-7). To rule over the earth in a way that reflects God's character, then, demands of us service and humility, not exploitation and selfishness.

**[www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org)**

**Jesus Christ** came to "bring good news to the poor".

"Care of the environment and human poverty are closely linked, and we cannot ignore the one without bringing trouble on other people. What we do to the environment matters."

From "A CHRISTIAN LOOK At The ENVIRONMENT" – 5 bible studies  
by Dena Burne, JRI Associate

[www.jri.org.uk](http://www.jri.org.uk)

\* \* \* \* \*

**God's creation is in crisis.** The world is facing a situation that can no longer be ignored. The signs are all around us, for those that have eyes to see and ears to hear. God's creation is being destroyed. And yet we know that God made this world as a safe, beautiful and fruitful home for us and for all creation:

*"God saw everything made and indeed, it was very good."* (Genesis 1:31)

From; **Material for Sunday services and bible studies for small groups on the theme of creation, Anglican Diocese of Natal** (copies of this material are available from Dunham House)

\* \* \* \* \*

**'All creation groaning':** A theological approach to climate change and development  
Paula Clifford, Christian Aid

"The starting point of this report is the fact that climate change is above all a justice issue. The people who are already suffering most from global warming are those who have done the least to cause it, and have the least resources to do anything about it. So the basic question underlying the theological statements made here is not 'why should Christians care about the environment?' It is 'why do Christians care about injustice?'

The answer can be simply put. The gospels tell us not only of the coming of Jesus but also of his complete identity with the human condition, in particular his solidarity with the vulnerable, with those who suffer injustice. In the words of St Paul: 'He emptied himself taking the form of a slave' (Philippians 2.7). That solidarity is also reflected in Jesus' unambiguous command to care for those who are sick, hungry or thirsty, the strangers and the prisoners, because 'just as you did it to one of the least of these... you did it to me' (Matthew 25:40)."

[www.christian-aid.org.uk](http://www.christian-aid.org.uk)