



How Green is your Church?

Suggested Eco Actions for parishes

The Representative Church Body recognises the role of the Church in the care of creation and continues to support the transition to a low carbon economy particularly within the context of “The Five Marks of Mission” which expresses the Anglican Communion’s common commitment to, and understanding of, God’s holistic/integral mission the fifth one of which states:

“To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth”

These suggested actions are provided to support parishes and/or Dioceses who wish to become more engaged with environmental issues including Climate Change and Biodiversity. Church engagement on green issues is a journey and which steps each Church takes will depend on what point on this journey they are starting from.

A series of more detailed resources and practical tools and advice are available from Eco-congregation Ireland (www.ecocongregationireland.com).

Spiritual:

- Celebrate and thank God for the gift of creation
- Sing hymns celebrating God’s creation
- Include prayers about environmental concerns in church services
- Hold a service or have quiet times of contemplation outdoors
- Celebrate Harvest (Sept/Oct) and Creation Time (1 September to 4 October)
- Prayer walks
- Organise/participate in a Lenten creation care group

Practical:

- Take simple energy efficiency steps (e.g. put heating/lights on a timer, switch to low-energy bulbs, improve insulation, eliminate draughts, fix dripping taps etc.)
- Plant a remembrance garden
- Switch to a green energy supplier
- Encourage and protect biodiversity within Church Grounds (leaving wild areas, planting bee friendly shrubs and flowers, installing bird boxes etc.)
- Undertake an energy audit
- Consider solar, geothermal or other sources of renewable energy or energy efficient measures
- Start a Compost bin and use it for Church gardening projects
- Reduce, Re-use, Recycle where possible
- Use washable plates, cups and cutlery instead of throw away paper/plastic and Eco-friendly cleaning products
- Become a Fairtrade Church

Community and Awareness:

- Display materials on environmental/Climate issues including actions people can take
- Hold a plant sale to raise money for those most impacted by Climate Change
- Hold events or debates on Environmental issues or invite guest speakers
- Consider an eco-newsletter
- Introduce environmental activities into children's/youth ministry
- Encourage people to walk or cycle to Church (consider bike racks)
- Mark Special environment days (Fair Trade fortnight, Earth Hour, World Ocean's day etc.)
- Encourage recycling by providing collection points