

DIOCESAN ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD SCHEME

The Diocesan Environmental Working Party invites churches to embrace the recommendations of the Working Group and work towards achieving status as a Diocesan Green Church through the bronze, silver and gold awards. The Working Party recognises that not all of the recommendations listed will be achievable for every church and some will be harder to achieve than others. However, many of the recommendations here would cost little or nothing to implement.

It is important, however, to recognise that many of the things we do as churches we do not because they will make or save us money but because they are worth doing – reducing the environmental impact of our activities and buildings is an aspect of our mission and should be considered as such by the Diocesan Board of Finance and by our PCCs.

Bronze Award

Achieve three recommendations from each of the three areas of parish life and receive a Bronze award certificate and logo for use with parish letter-heading.

Silver Award

Achieve 6 recommendations from each of the three areas of parish life to receive a Silver award certificate and logo for use with parish letter-heading.

Gold Award

Achieve all the recommendations listed under 'Christian Living'

Achieve 8 of the recommendations listed under 'Community'

Achieve 14 of the recommendations listed under 'Resources' and receive the Gold Diocesan Environmental certificate and logo for use with parish letter-heading and an invitation to a celebratory event hosted by a Bishop.

	CHRISTIAN LIVING (Please refer to the appendices for further guidance)	TICK P WHEN ACHIEVED
1	Appoint a parish 'Environmental Champion' – someone with a passion for environmental matters who will 'make things happen' and drive the local church towards achieving the 'Green Church Award' scheme.	
2	Run a house-group or bible study series on the environment eg Scripture Union 'Thinking Biblically about Climate Change'	
3	Register as a Fair Trade Church with the Fair Trade Foundation	
4	Switch church bank account to an ethical bank eg Co-operative, Kingdom Bank	
5	Have a church communal Christmas/Easter card and donate money saved to the Climate Justice Fund or similarly focused charity	
6	Run a TraidCraft Stall	
7	Implement a scheme for offsetting the church's carbon footprint – eg, view www.climatejusticefund.org.uk	
8	Set aside a Sunday to celebrate the Environment: eg, A Rocha recommend the first Sunday in June as 'Environment Sunday'	
9	Invite a representative from one of the national charities to speak on the environment – eg Christian Aid, A Rocha,	
10	Invite local environmental activists/specialists to speak about community green events	
11	Have a 'Car-Awareness Sunday' at least once a year with the focus being to minimise car useage. This might mean, for example, walking to your local church or inviting donations to The Climate Justice Fund for every car used that Sunday. Encourage walking and cycling to church as often as possible.	
12	Use a 'living simply' lent course	

	COMMUNITY (Please refer to the appendices for further guidance)	TICK P WHEN ACHIEVED
1	Organise / participate in a community clear-up project e.g. litter pick	
2	Participate in a climate change rally	
3	Lobby your MP for parliamentary action on climate change	
4	Provide and/or support a community recycling point (eg mobiles phones, glasses, printer cartridges, tools)	
5	Encourage worshipping communities to grow their own fruit and vegetables and share these with one another	
6	Allow fruit / vegetable planting on church land in the ownership of the PCC	
7	Run an eco-column in the church magazine/pew sheet/website	
8	Install bird/insect boxes	
9	Set aside an area of the church grounds as a 'meadow' to encourage wildlife	
10	Provide an eco-section on the church noticeboard	
11	Include eco-charities in outward giving	
12	Organise a clothes swap event, with money raised going to charity	

	RESOURCES (Please refer to the appendices for further guidance)	TICK P WHEN ACHIEVED
1	Replace all lightbulbs with energy efficient bulbs, where possible	
2	Provide opportunities for recycling of paper/plastic/glass in church facilities.	
3	Arrange for the composting of all organic materials – (eg flowers and kitchen waste)	
4	Use only environment-friendly cleaning products	
5	Switch to a green energy provider eg Green Energy, Ecotricity etc.	
6	Install rain water collection	
7	Install water meters	
8	Write and implement a flood-lighting policy	
9	Commit to using at least 30% LOAF ingredients (Local, Organic, Animal friendly, Fairly traded) at church functions	
10	Produce a carpool for Sunday services	
11	Install bike racks outside the church	
12	Display a map with safe walking/cycling routes within the parish	
13	Use recycled paper	
14	Print double-sided wherever possible	
15	Make it policy not to use disposable cups, plates etc or bottled water	
16	Install hippos in cisterns or dual-flush cisterns	
17	Commit to a policy of emailing rather than using post, where possible	
18	Install insulation where appropriate, eg cavity wall, loft insulation	

“After completing this form please forward it to...Gordon Randall, Stewardship Adviser, The Diocesan Office, Old Alresford Place, Alresford, SO24 9DH

For full details of the Diocesan Environmental Policy please view

<http://www.cofewinchester.org.uk/lifeandfaith/environment/>