



The Methodist Church

East Anglia District

Environmental Policy

Eco Audit for the East Anglia Methodist District

Our aim is to encourage Churches to look at and take ownership of becoming an Eco Church and help us to work towards gaining the East Anglia Methodist Eco District award.

Eco Circuit and Church Audit

- Does your Circuit and Church have an environmental policy?
- What can be done to introduce/improve or extend/better implement an existing environmental policy?
- What should be this Church's priorities? We can't do everything all at once! What is most important? What is most urgent?

Energy and carbon

The first step is to record your Church's energy use and then each church should plan steps to reduce that use, beginning by:

- Reviewing the church's heating system
- Making sure the lighting is all low energy, usually all LED
- Switching to a green energy supplier.

Transport

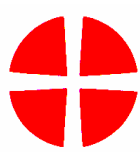
Transport plays a part in the energy use and carbon emissions we are responsible for in our daily lives, including travelling to and from church.

- How do most church members travel to church, to work, during free time, on holiday?
- What can we do to encourage low carbon travel?

Water and waste

Water scarcity remains an issue, the climate is oscillating between increasingly long or intense periods of high and low rainfall. Some of our coast regions are under pressure from the coastline erosion, the growing population along with more hard surfacing which means the rain cannot reach the water table.

- What arrangements does your church have to economise on water?



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- Do hard areas of your churchyard have porous paving?

Waste disposal contributes to environmental pollution, and also adds to carbon emissions.

The problem of plastic in the ocean has become notorious.

- Is your waste recycled? Who organises/collects/pays?
- Does your waste collection company practise a zero to landfill policy?

Wildlife and biodiversity

Caring for the wildlife is an obvious part of caring for God's creation.

- What wildlife is there on your church site/in the neighbourhood?
- What can church members do to care/conserves/encourage it?

Food and drink

- What food and drink is served in the Church?
- What consideration is given to where it comes from, and how it is produced?
- What more can be done in the longer term – at church and at home?

The District is a Fairtrade District

- Is the Church registered as a Fairtrade church yet?
- What fair trade actions are being taken/should be taken?

Things we buy for the Church

- Paper and/or IT? Which is more eco-friendly?
- What else do we buy? For the church/at home?

Wider look

- What more can and should we all do to be salt and light in the world we live in, from the environmental point of view?
- How can we help our local community to be and stay together in the face of challenges to human dependability and wellbeing, now especially as we have together faced the Covid pandemic?
- How can we play our part in helping communities elsewhere in the world, especially the developing world, to reduce their much greater environmental stresses and to build resilience?
- How do we avoid getting distracted by our own concerns – however valid and pressing they might be?



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What next?

- What should we be following up from the questions we've been considering?
- What homework should be done/ by whom in the church congregation?
- How should we set our aims and objectives, an action plan and programme, and when to put these to the Church Council?
- Should we include actions on environment in our Church Annual Reports?

For advice or more information, contact:

The District Office

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Norwich

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Some useful links

<https://eangliamethodist.org.uk/we-care/environment>

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/podcasts/the-methodist-podcast-episode-55-earth-day/>

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/environment-and-climate-change/take-action-celebrate-climate-sunday/>

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/environment-and-climate-change/take-action-become-an-eco-church/>

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/3201/higf-report-and-study-guide-0514.pdf>

[Climate Justice For All – World Methodist Council](#)

[HOME - UN Climate Change Conference \(COP26\) at the SEC – Glasgow 2021 \(ukcop26.org\)](#)