

Lifestyle Category

We worship a God who loves the earth he created and calls us to care for it. While it's important to take action together as a church, we also have an individual responsibility to take action in our daily lives so that we tread lightly on the earth, and use our voices to speak up for nature. This category is about our churches encouraging people to act as individuals and households – integrating creation care into daily lives out of integrity, as an act of worship and obedience to God and as we grow in discipleship.

Please refer to the [Lifestyle overview document](#) for further guidance about completing this category.

Please note this document is for reference and church-use only. To apply for an Eco Church award, you will need to copy your answers across to the online survey on the [Eco Church online platform](#). As we are a small admin team we are unable to accept paper copies of surveys as award applications.

Commitment

1. Our church has a strategy or plan to promote ethical and environmentally aware consumption patterns by individuals and households.

Yes / No

Theme 1: Influence

2. Our Eco Church champion or team shares tips/steps for a more ethical and sustainable lifestyle with our church leadership and/or governing body for monitoring and review.

Routinely / Occasionally / Never

3. Information and advice about how individuals and households can respond to the climate and nature crises are shared widely across our church's communication channels (e.g. newsletters, social media, website).

Widely and routinely / Less frequently and/or via some channels only / Not at all

4. Our church actively encourages the whole congregation to take part in social or environmental campaigns the church supports (whatever form this takes, e.g. signing petitions, hosting MP at a church service, attending marches or large demonstrations).

Routinely / Occasionally / Never

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Theme 2: Carbon footprint

5. Our church promotes auditing of individual and household carbon footprints (e.g. by using Climate Stewards, Giki, Take the Jump, the WWF Footprint Calculator or other calculators).

Routinely / Occasionally / Never

6. Our church recognises that energy use for heating and lighting is one of the three biggest contributors to carbon emissions in the UK and promotes:

Choose all that apply

ways for individuals and households to reduce consumption and increase energy efficiency (e.g. smart

metering, energy-efficient appliances)

switching from gas/oil to electricity for heating

renewable electricity tariffs

No action on energy

Theme 3: Personal choices

7. Our church recognises the current global, industrialised food system as largely unsustainable. While many people have limited choices about what they eat (e.g. due to cost), food is one of the biggest contributors to UK carbon emissions. We encourage:

Choose all that apply

mainly plant-based diets

consuming less meat and dairy products

locally sourced foods including veg boxes where possible

rescue initiatives for food that would otherwise be thrown away

campaigning for a sustainable food system

No action on food

8. Our church recognises that transport is one of the three biggest contributors to carbon emissions in the UK and encourages:

Choose all that apply

active transport such as walking and cycling where possible

ways to increase use of public transport where possible

ways to reduce personal car use (e.g. car sharing)

alternatives to flying

No action on transport

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9. Our church recognises that personal choices about how we use our money – including banking, pensions, and investing – have a significant impact on climate and nature. Our church promotes:

Choose all that apply

information about financial choices that are positive for climate and nature

banking with providers having robust policies on climate and nature protection and not funding the fossil fuel industry

divestment from funds and pensions with an interest in fossil fuels

credit unions and other purpose-driven finance institutions that work for positive social and environmental impact

No action on money

10. Our church recognises that consumption of goods and services has a significant impact on climate and nature. Our church encourages individuals and households to reduce their consumption and make ethical choices by promoting:

Choose all that apply

sustainability comparison websites such as Ethical Consumer

local cooperatives and sharing initiatives (e.g. community fridge)

lending/borrowing initiatives (e.g. a Library of Things)

use of surveys and apps to monitor and reduce consumption (e.g. Creation Care survey)

buying fairly traded goods where possible

use of local repair cafe

other

No action on consumption patterns

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11. Our church recognises that the waste we produce as individuals and households has a significant impact on climate and nature, and promotes:

Choose all that apply

continuously reducing the consumption of materials and resources

avoiding the use of disposable and single-use plastics wherever possible

re-using or buying second-hand wherever possible

recycling materials and equipment wherever possible

composting food waste either at home or via a collection scheme

working towards sending zero waste to landfill

minimising wastewater

other

No action on waste promoted

Theme 4: Nature

12. Our church recognises the importance of opportunities to enjoy, nurture and protect creation, and encourages members to:

Choose all that apply

sign up for A Rocha UK's 'Wild Christian' programme

get outside for events and activities

participate in volunteering activities (e.g. Green Gyms, Wildlife Trust events, etc.)

No encouragement

13. Our church recognises that private gardens and other outdoor spaces can make a significant contribution to nature, and encourages members to manage their own or local outdoor spaces for nature in some way.

Yes / No