

## Worship and Teaching category

We worship a God who loves the earth he created and calls us to care for it. Doing so is part of our worship and witness as we respond to a creation that is groaning. Churches participating in Eco Church come from a broad variety of traditions which while bringing enormous breadth and richness, makes it challenging to craft one survey that covers the language and practice of every tradition – so please interpret these questions within your specific context.

Please refer to the [Worship and teaching 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 recognises and teaches that creation care and action to address the climate and nature crises are integral to Christian faith, life and worship and has made a visible commitment to A Rocha UK's Eco Church award scheme.

Yes /No

### Theme 1: Worship and prayer

2. Our worship, statements of belief and music acknowledge and celebrate God's relationship with, and work in, creation

Routinely / Occasionally / Never

NA (*if your church does not have statements of belief and/or music*)

3. Our church celebrates special days and seasons relating to creation care (e.g. Season of Creation, Harvest, Environment Sunday, Rogation Sunday, saints' days, animal blessing services, etc.)

Routinely / Occasionally / Never

4. Our worship provides opportunities to lament the destruction and damage to creation and to confess/repent of our part in this

Routinely / Occasionally / Never

NA (*if you don't have a specific time of confession/repentance in your worship*)

5. Creation care is embedded in the preaching in our church

Routinely / Occasionally / Never

NA (*if preaching is not part of your tradition or within your control*)

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6. Our church prays/intercedes for global, national and local environmental issues and for those who work to safeguard and renew creation, and provides encouragement and resources for individual and community prayer on these themes

Routinely / Occasionally / Never

NA (*if collective intercessory prayer is not part of your worship*)

7. Our church worships outdoors, in God's creation (e.g. regular services, Palm Sunday, Easter Dawn)

Routinely / Occasionally / Never

8. Our church is based on or engages with a pioneering model of worship or 'fresh expression' that routinely meets outdoors (e.g. Forest Church, Muddy Church, Messy Church Goes Wild, prayer walks, contemplative liturgy)

Yes – this is what we are / Yes – we support or run one / No

9. Our church recognises that worship resources have an impact on the climate and nature, and chooses those that are as sustainable as possible, for example local/seasonal flowers, foam-free arrangements, non-fossil fuel wax candles and organic wine.

Mostly / Partly / Not at all

NA (*if you don't use worship resources*)

### Theme 2: People

10. Our ministers, leaders, preachers and intercessors can preach/teach confidently about creation care and environmental issues

Yes, all of them / Some training is needed / No, not at all

NA (*if preaching/teaching is not part of your tradition or within your control*)

11. Those responsible for pastoral care (or the equivalent) in our church are aware of and feel equipped to respond to environmental concerns including eco-anxiety

Yes, all of them / Some training is needed / No, not at all

12. Specific callings to take action on environmental issues (including Eco Church) are affirmed equally alongside other ministries/vocations (e.g. social care/action) in our church

Yes / No

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**Theme 3: Teaching and discipleship**

13. The preparation we provide for baptism and/or confirmation and/or membership of our church includes creation care as an integral part of Christian faith

Yes / No

NA (*if this is not part of your practice/tradition*)

14. Creation care is part of our church's work with children and young people, including schools if appropriate

Routinely / Occasionally / Never

NA (*if you don't work with children and young people*)

15. The courses we run (e.g. during Lent or Advent, introductory discipleship courses, small groups, house groups, or study groups) include creation care as an integral part of Christian faith

Routinely / Occasionally / Never

NA (*if this is not part of your practice/tradition*)

16. Our church hosts guest speakers from Christian environmental organisations and/or other Eco Churches and/or denominational environmental leads

Routinely / Occasionally / Never