

Why do I need to supply extra evidence for a gold Eco Church award?

Applying for a gold award involves some extra steps, beyond the Eco Church survey, because we need to:

- see the **ethos** of Eco Church is embedded in your worshiping community
- see **key documentation** and **processes** are established to a gold award standard within your church, e.g. comprehensive land management plan
- see **relevant supporting** evidence of your gold survey answers
- meet and hear from **key people** in your Eco Church team at the gold review meeting so that we can hear your story to encourage others

How do I apply for a gold Eco Church award?

1. Complete the online survey (reaching gold in all categories) and fill in comments on each survey category to expand on any of your 'other' answers and anything else related to this survey category. Submit your gold survey application on the Eco Church platform
2. Complete this pro forma and email it, with the additional documents; your [Climate Stewards 360° Carbon report](#) and your land management plan, to ecochurch@arocha.org

For a reminder of your gold Eco Church survey answers click [here](#). Your gold survey will be one of **the main documents** the gold assessors review and may ask you clarification questions during the review process and meeting.

What happens next?

Once we have received your online application, this pro forma and additional documents we will review your application and supporting evidence. If there is any missing documentation, or if we have any questions or points to clarify we will get in touch via email. Once we are satisfied that all the supporting evidence criteria have been met, we set up a team of assessors to review your gold award application- sometimes further information is requested. A gold review meeting visit will then be arranged (in person or online) for the review team to meet with key members of your Eco Church team to **complete the assessment**. A decision on your gold award application will be shared within two weeks of a gold review meeting.

Your Gold award application checklist

- Reached gold in all categories of **Eco Church survey and submitted on the platform**
- **All sections of this pro forma have been completed** (In addition to your comments you may include weblinks to online content and embed digital photos.)
- Relevant supporting evidence of your gold survey answers
- Attach your latest [Climate Stewards 360° carbon footprint](#) report
- Attach your church's [nature/land management plan](#)

Please send this completed document and additional documents to
ecochurch@arocha.org

Your church's name, address, website and any Eco Church related weblinks (e.g. your green web page or eco church webpage).

Tell us a little about your church - its people, building, location and local community. (500 words max)

Your Eco Church team

Tell us more about how your eco church team operates; for example, who is on it and their roles, how often you meet and how decisions are taken.

How and why did you start on your Eco Church journey? (500 words max)

Share some examples of how Eco Church/ Creation care principles are embedded in your church life and community outreach. If a visitor walked into your church building/space on a Sunday or during weekday activities, how would they know you are an Eco Church? You can also share here how you are promoting your Eco Church action via your website/ social media and other communication opportunities.

(Do include weblinks to online content/screenshots/ embed digital photos as appropriate).

To help us understand the breadth of your Eco church engagement, please share some examples of the impact being an Eco Church has had on your church and your wider community? (Do include weblinks to online content/screenshots/ embed digital photos as appropriate).

How are you influencing others around you (locally and nationally) to address the nature and climate crisis here in the UK? (Do include weblinks to online content/screenshots/ embed digital photos as appropriate).

How are you influencing others around you (locally and nationally) to address the nature and climate crisis globally? (Do include weblinks to online content/screenshots/ embed digital photos as appropriate).

Worship and Teaching (500 words max)

Please elaborate on your survey answers with examples of how you have fulfilled the requirements of this category. For example, how Special Sundays relating to caring for God's earth are celebrated in our church, how and when caring for God's earth featured in your preaching, prayers and teaching over the past year? (Do include weblinks to online content/screenshots/ embed digital photos as appropriate).

Building management (500 words max)

Please elaborate on your survey answers with examples of how you have fulfilled the requirements of this category. For example, what you learned from measuring your carbon footprint, how you have reduced it and how it has influenced your actions, tell us more about how you have improved energy efficiency and your future plans to reach net zero. (Do include weblinks to online content/screenshots/ embed digital photos as appropriate).

Land: Protecting and restoring nature (500 words max)

Please elaborate on your survey answers with examples of how you have fulfilled the requirements of this category. For example, tell us more about how you created your land management plan/ your church's plan for nature - who did you consult/local partnerships/ research undertaken. We'd also like to hear more about your wildlife surveys and how others from your community are involved too. Share with us if and how you are supporting [A Rocha UK's Target 25](#) / or similar projects to help declining species, taxonomic groups and habitats? (Do include weblinks to online content/screenshots/ embed digital photos as appropriate).

Community and Global Engagement (500 words max)

Please elaborate on your survey answers with examples of how you have fulfilled the requirements of this category. For example, how you have engaged your local community / local leaders/ your MP on local environmental issues, about any links with local sustainability movements and local conservation groups, what resources you have found helpful to pray around the climate and nature crises nationally and internationally, and any campaigns concerning national and global environmental issues you have participated in.(Do include weblinks to online content/screenshots/ embed digital photos as appropriate).

Lifestyle (500 words max) Please expand on your survey answers with examples of how you have fulfilled the requirements of this category. For example how you have encouraged the congregation to undertake a personal carbon footprint audit / an environmental lifestyle audit and what were the outcomes, how your church is encouraging a more eco-friendly/ sustainable lifestyle? (Do include weblinks to online content/screenshots/ embed digital photos as appropriate).

Growing beyond gold (500 words max)

How is your church planning to continue its Eco Church journey?

How would you celebrate a gold award?

Achieving a gold award is a cause for celebration and an opportunity to champion all that you are doing around the climate and nature crisis - how would you promote your achievement locally and help spread the message and ethos of being an Eco Church?