

Eco Diocese Silver Award Criteria

August 2026



	Silver	Notes	Evidence (Evidence required or suggested evidence)
Ownership	Commissioned a group (e.g. Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC)) or working group to coordinate and progress Eco Diocese	Ideally, this would include a Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) representative or, at least, good links established between the two groups, as well as the involvement of a senior member of the Diocesan leadership team. A sense of ownership by other groups (e.g. Finance) is also important for the long-term delivery of Eco Diocese.	<i>Minutes from meetings of the Environmental Advisory Working Group (or DAC with similar name) with minuted action points and results.</i>
Relevant Church House/Diocesan Office award	Achieve silver award for Church House/Diocesan Office and promote an understanding amongst all staff of Eco Diocese goals.	For an 'office' environment to become truly sustainable, all staff need to understand the direction of travel and why this matters. It cannot be left to one individual to champion and own this across a whole office team. See further guidance on Eco Church award for office .	<i>Certificate of award(s) or email from Eco Church. Ethical purchasing policy (for example).</i>
Eco Church awards	Route 1: (up to 500 churches) 40% of local churches registered; 30% of local churches awarded; 10% of local churches awarded silver or higher. Route 2 (large diocese): 30% of local churches registered; 22% of local churches awarded; 7% of local churches awarded silver or higher.	As per Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030 and The net zero carbon framework of the Church in Wales. Please refer to How many churches are in my diocese? for further guidance. See below for further notes* Read more about the Eco Church thresholds for silver and gold Eco Diocese awards	<i>Spreadsheet of local churches and Eco Church status.</i>
Land	An environmental policy and a land management plan, with an explicit reference to <i>promoting biodiversity</i> and managing the land for carbon	A holistic environmental policy needs to extend across the diocese as a whole and, critically, needs to include land and biodiversity as well as buildings. A survey or audit of land is an important benchmark to be completed at this stage.	<i>Environmental policy.</i> <i>Land management strategy.</i>

	reduction across the diocese.	Please refer to Further information Land silver Eco Diocese and Glebe Land Guidance. Where a diocese has farming tenants, a diocesan policy on managing land assets should include clear social and environmental aspects, reflecting the fourth and fifth Anglican Marks of Mission.	<i>Survey or audit of priority habitats on diocese-owned land as identified under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Section 41 habitats) (for example).</i>
Training and development	Environmental training is included in standard diocesan training for both lay and ordained ministry, and there are opportunities for training and development for other regional staff/volunteers.	Environmental training and creation care theology should not be an optional extra in a package of training, nor left to clergy alone. In order to build and maintain momentum in this area, a network of committed promoters/activists should be equipped to help support and enable uptake, for example amongst less well-resourced churches. To this end, development opportunities should be offered to staff/volunteers within the Diocese to act as eco champions. See below for further notes on training**	<i>Record of Church House/Diocesan Office staff training.</i> <i>Record of ministerial training events/courses attended.</i> <i>Details of two high-profile mandatory ministerial training events related to the environment (within last four years).</i> <i>Evidence of support for eco champions (or similar) working within the diocese.</i> <i>Details of training placements in environmental contexts (church or secular).</i>
Schools and education	The Diocesan Board of Education has put in place an appropriate environmental policy.	We draw the DBE's attention to IQ5 in the SIAMS framework (SIAMS framework Sept 2023) which asks the question of how a school's vision creates an active culture of justice and responsibility. This approach situates creation care within the broader matter of global justice.	<i>Diocesan Board of Education (or equivalent) environmental policy.</i>
Carbon reduction	Agreed carbon reduction targets and developed an action plan to get there.	As per Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030 and The Net Zero Carbon framework of the Church in Wales.	<i>Net Zero Action Plan for Diocese.</i>
Finance and investments	All diocesan funds are invested in line with ethical principles	Following the CoFE move to divest capital investments, Diocesan policies and practices need to reflect this	<i>Written ethical banking and investment policy following good</i>

	consistent with good environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) criteria and which target 'deep positive impact primarily in the themes of financial inclusion, affordable and safe housing, and the environment.'	www.churchofengland.org/media-and-news/press-releases/church-commissioners-england-exclude-oil-and-gas-companies-over Efforts to consider cash investments in high street banks are also encouraged. Where banks are used, we encourage them to be challenged to share their environmental and social policies.	<i>corporate governance (ESG) criteria.</i> <i>Challenges to high street banks and requesting ethical information (for example).</i>
Collaboration	Work with partner church groups both locally and internationally to raise mutual awareness in regard to climate change and species loss mitigation and resilience measures.	Local and international partnership work is crucial for a global approach to environmental care and climate justice. <i>Awareness of the international call made through the many Lambeth Conference resolutions on the environment, those of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) (particularly A16.08 A17.05; A17.06, and A17.11) and through the 2015 document 'The World is our Host'. Diocese needs to show an awareness of the work of the ACEN and the Anglican Alliance in regard to environmental care and climate justice.</i>	<i>Meetings or events showing environmental engagement with other dioceses, denominations and/or faith groups at both parish and diocesan level.</i> <i>Meetings of events showing collaboration with CompanionLink Diocese(s), and/or its Mother's Union Link Diocese(s) (for example).</i>
Celebrating Creation	Regular and substantial presence of environmental issues on the diocesan website and through wider communication channels.	Demonstrate that environmental issues are regularly on the agenda at meetings and practical action is taking place. Share information visually on social media, the diocesan website and diocesan communication eg. projects demonstrably cutting carbon, restoring nature, celebration of Eco Church awards, diocesan steps to facilitate networking of local Eco Church groups.	<i>Links to diocesan posts, websites and publications with communication about Eco Church awards, environmental action, and carbon-cutting achievements.</i>

Link to Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030: www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/RoutemapToNetZeroCarbonFinal.pdf

Link to *The Net Zero Carbon framework of the Church in Wales* and other documents: www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/about-us/our-campaigns/environment/

***Eco Church awards notes:** *The percentages relate to the total number of local diocese churches. For example, if you have 100 local churches, 10 of the local churches must be registered, and 5 must be awarded for you to meet the Bronze Eco Diocese award criteria. To meet the Silver Eco Diocese award criteria, if you have 100 local churches, you must have 40 registered and 30 churches with an award, with at least 10 awarded silver or higher.*

****Training and development notes:** *Training and development will look very different in each diocese. Evidence needs to be provided to show the breadth of training offered to lay and ordained ministers, staff and volunteers rather than a few 'experts'. Training and development will cover practical technical aspects of carbon reduction as well as Christianity, faith and creation theology. Training may be delivered in-house, via other agencies (e.g. A Rocha UK, Wildlife Trusts) or external courses leading to certification (e.g. CRES). Training placements in specifically environmental contexts (church and secular) should be considered as part of ministerial training/development. Attention should be paid to supporting eco champions (or similar initiatives) who can become supporters of those promoting parish environmental work.*