

## Community and Global Engagement category

The climate and nature crises are profoundly unjust, with the most devastating impacts affecting the poor and vulnerable who have done the least to cause the crisis. We are called to love our neighbour, and so it is our responsibility to them and the places they live, wherever they are, to demonstrate love for people and nature by advocating for a more just world (Micah 6:8). While there is much that we can do as a church body, our impact will be even greater when we work with others to bring about local and global change.

Wherever you are on your journey with social and political engagement, this category is an invitation to the next step whether that looks like starting a conversation in your church, joining local events engaging in social and environmental justice, or joining a campaign for nature.

This category aims to help your church think and act clearly and effectively, with others. Having a plan or strategy (evidence of intentionality) will help your church:

- have the conversations necessary to build an understanding of the issues and kick-start action
- affirm your commitment to act for justice for people and nature
- identify ways to turn this commitment into action (e.g. engaging with Great Big Green Week, speaking to your MP about nature and climate)
- identify ways in which the impact of your actions can be measured.

Please refer to the [Community and global engagement 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 the impact of the climate and nature crises and has a plan or strategy to take action **LOCALLY** and/or **NATIONALLY** and/or **GLOBALLY**. *If not, the questions that follow may help you to produce one.*

Yes / No

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### Theme 1: Awareness raising – getting people on board

2. Our church responds to the impact of the climate and nature crises and engages with environmental and social justice issues affecting the LOCAL area (e.g. housing and transport campaigns) in the following way(s):

*Choose all that apply.*

Discussion and action by the Eco Church team

Discussion and action involving the wider church community (e.g. Mission team), including the leadership

Engaging with the community beyond the church

No engagement

3. Our church responds to the impact of the climate and nature crises and engages in environmental and social justice activities/issues that have NATIONAL impact in the following way(s):

*Choose all that apply.*

Discussion and action by the Eco Church team

Discussion and action involving the wider church community, including the leadership

Engaging with the community beyond the church

No engagement

4. Our church responds to the impact of the climate and ecological crises and engages with environmental and social justice issues that have a GLOBAL impact in the following way(s):

*Choose all that apply.*

Discussion and action by the Eco Church team

Discussion and action by the wider church community including the leadership

Engaging with the community beyond the church

No engagement

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#### Theme 2: Taking action

5. Our church is involved in advocating/campaigning on environmental and social justice issues (e.g. local air pollution, water quality issues, plastic pollution) in the following way(s):

*Choose all that apply.*

Attending local councillors' surgeries

Engaging with local authority Climate Working Group or equivalent

Engaging with hustings (e.g. for general elections, local by-elections or local council elections) on climate and nature issues

Attending MP surgeries

Attending relevant public meetings

Online/digital campaigning including letter writing and engaging with petitions

Participating in prayer vigils, climate demonstrations, etc.

Inviting elected representatives to appropriate community events

Other

No engagement

6. Our church works in partnership with other organisations on environmental and/or climate justice issues, locally, nationally or globally.

*Choose all that apply*

With other churches

With local grassroots campaigning groups

With conservation groups

With other community groups

With national and international campaigns and/or NGOs

With a local environmental network

Other (please give details in comments box)

No engagement

7. Our Church provides opportunities and events that encourage a more equitable and inclusive experience of nature for all through getting outside to enjoy, nurture and protect nature.

*Choose all that apply*

Walks, cycle rides, etc.

Learning events (e.g. guided walks, citizen science activities)

Actively engaging marginalised and or minority groups

Other

No participation

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8. Our church recognises that choices about how we use/steward our church's finances – including banking, pensions and the role of divestment – have a significant impact on climate and climate justice. We do the following:

*Choose all that apply*

Support anti-poverty campaigns and actions

Bank with providers with robust climate- and nature-friendly policies

Do not invest in funds with an interest in fossil fuels

Invest in or support funds that actively invest in positive change for the climate and nature

Take part in campaigns about the use of money (e.g. divestment, pensions and banking)

No engagement

9. Our church participates in the following events:

*Choose all that apply*

Events organised by ARUCA (e.g. Wild Christian)

Other events (e.g. Great Big Green Week, Earth Day, Earth Hour)

Relevant webinars and online training events

Other awareness-raising events (please give details in comments box)

No participation

10. Our church uses recognised accreditation schemes/organisations that encourage action on environmental and social justice issues when making decisions about purchasing, etc. such as the following:

*Choose all that apply*

Fairtrade Foundation/Fairtrade Place of Worship

B Corps products

Rainforest Alliance

Other

No engagement

### Community and Global Engagement category

11. Our policy on food/meals provided by our church is:

*Choose all that apply*

Wholly/mainly vegan/plant based

Vegan/vegetarian options always provided

Food is locally sourced as far as possible

Food is organic as far as possible

To adhere to the highest animal welfare standards possible

Provided in conjunction with local or national food waste schemes (e.g. Real Junk Food project, supermarkets etc)

No engagement

12. Our church promotes and/or supports sustainable transport.

*Choose all that apply*

Promoting public transport where possible

Encouraging local car sharing

Installing or campaigning for more electric vehicle charging points

Making access by bike as easy as possible

Providing bike racks

Offering bike repair sessions at least once a year

Other (please give details in comments box)

No engagement

13. Our church takes action on waste – we refuse, reduce, reuse, repair, recycle etc. We do the following:

*Choose all that apply*

Have a policy/plan to reduce our waste

Understand our local authority's policy and practice on waste

Continuously reduce our consumption of materials and resources

Avoid the use of disposables such as cups, plates, cutlery, and single-use plastics wherever possible

Re-use or buy second-hand wherever possible

Recycle materials and equipment (e.g. electronics) wherever possible

Ensure appropriate food waste is composted

Actively work towards sending zero waste to landfill

No engagement

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**Theme 3: Communication**

14. Our church has an eco-champion/ambassador available to participate in external events.

Yes / No

15. Our church communicates the work we do, including our participation in Eco Church, to share ideas, raise awareness and encourage others to engage:

*Choose all that apply*

On our website

In internal communications (e.g. newsletters)

On public noticeboards (physical or digital)

At an information station at events

In local or national press

On social media

Other

No engagement

16. Our church financially supports an environmental charity.

Yes / No