

The Eco Church survey at a glance

Welcome to the Eco Church survey – a framework for action to help us respond faithfully to the climate and nature crises. The Eco Church survey is a self-assessment tool for churches to connect environmental issues with their Christian faith and mission, and respond with practical action in the church, people's lives, and the local and global community. The Eco Church survey is a free online award scheme encompassing all areas of church life through the following five categories:

Worship and Teaching

Embedding creation care in worship, prayer and learning

As people made in the image of God, we are called to respond, to care for the earth and to work to protect and restore it. Collective worship is an integral aspect of most churches. Many of the questions in this survey category relate to aspects of collective worship including special services, music, preaching and prayer. The format for teaching within our churches can take many forms, such as preaching during collective worship, small groups, preparation courses, and working with children and young people.

Buildings and Energy

Finding energy-efficient and innovative ways to manage our places of worship

This category draws on practical steps that help a church work toward 'net zero carbon'. Many of the questions in this category point toward good building maintenance for the long term, as our buildings endure a changing climate, with more extremes, and as we seek to maintain them as welcoming spaces, glorifying God.

Land and Nature

Nurturing spaces for people and nature

The purpose of this category is to guide you through practical actions to care for God's earth. Be it land owned by the church, even if only around the church building itself, or land in the local community, churches need to manage land for nature.

Community and Global Engagement

Transforming local and global communities and ecosystems

This survey category is about what your church is doing collectively as a body in terms of advocacy and action. Wherever you are on your journey with social and political engagement, this survey category is an invitation to take 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.

Lifestyle

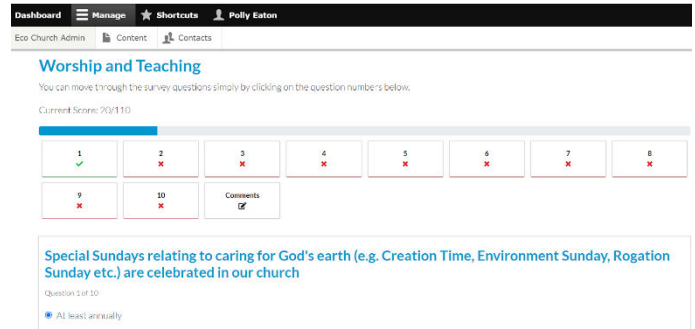
Living joyfully and sustainably as followers of Christ

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. Within this category, we encourage the church to play a role in educating and informing individual church members, and wider communities, about the actions they can take and the influence they have.

Completing the survey

The Eco Church survey is designed for you to assess your engagement with creation care and monitor your progress. The questions in each category will act as a prompt to take further steps. You earn points based on how you care for God's earth and when you earn enough points you will achieve a bronze, silver or gold award.

Please register, complete the survey and apply for an award via the [online platform](#). We have a great collection of [resources](#) to help and inspire you.



Selecting pathways

Churches come in different shapes and sizes, so in order for the Eco Church survey to be applicable to different church circumstances we have created different pathways for you to choose from in two of the categories. Throughout the survey, we ask that you select the response that best describes your situation.

There are three pathways through the Buildings and Energy category:

Pathway 1 – for cathedrals and churches that are used regularly (at least weekly) and have energy and water supplies.

Pathway 2 – for small, intermittently used churches, including those without energy or water supplies.

Pathway 3 – for churches without their own building (e.g. those that meet in rented space or outdoors).

There are two pathways through the Land and Nature category:

Pathway 1 – for churches that own or manage land such as a garden, churchyard, or burial ground.

Pathway 2 – for churches with very *limited* land such as a paved car park, a perimeter strip of land, or other hard-standing areas, and for churches that do not own or manage *any* land. This pathway asks you to consider your own small amount of land, if you have any, **and** also how you can influence land managed by others.

Choose the pathways that best suit your setting. For most churches, this will be straightforward. In a few cases, it might be worth exploring all pathways before settling on which one is the most appropriate for your situation.

Going for gold

Applying for a gold award involves some extra steps beyond the Eco Church survey. This is so that we can learn more about your achievements and understand how Eco Church is embedded in your worshipping community. More details about what is required are found on our [website](#).

Celebrate!

Celebrating your award is an important part of the Eco Church process – taking time to acknowledge the progress you have made. We encourage you to share the news of your Eco Church award in your church and wider community.

