Eco College survey questions

Land and Nature

When colleges manage land for nature or get involved with land in the local community, they reinforce the Christian mission by caring for creation and serving the community – increasing access to nature for human wellbeing, building climate resilience, doing something positive for biodiversity, and pointing people towards God our Creator.

There are two pathways through this category:

Pathway 1: Colleges that own or manage land

Pathway 2: Colleges that do not own any land

Please use the 'Comments' box at the end of this category to expand on any of your answers, including where you have answered 'Other', and anything else related to this survey category. Refer to the Eco College Overview document for further guidance about completing this category. For more information and to look at all the Eco College questions, visit the Eco College webpage.

Pathway question

1. Please identify which pathway best fits your situation.

- ☐ Pathway 1: Our college owns or manages land
- ☐ Pathway 2: Our college does not own any land

Pathway 1: Our college owns or manages land

Commitment

2. Our college recognises the significant contribution Christian land owners can make to the UK's target of 30% of land protected for nature by 2030. We have a plan to manage our land for nature to help us do this in the most climate-resilient and impactful way.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Partly
- ☐ No

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Theme 1: Biodiversity

3. Our college encourages wildlife to flourish on our land by providing (choose all that apply):

- ☐ Wildlife habitat features (e.g. bird boxes, bat boxes, bug hotels, hedgehog houses)
- ☐ Wildlife food resources (e.g. bird feeders, berry-producing shrubs, seed-bearing trees, wildflowers)
- ☐ Wildlife water resources (e.g. ponds, bird baths, drinking stations)
- ☐ Hedges, shrubs or small trees
- ☐ Wild, scrubby areas (e.g. nettles, brambles, weeds in paving)
- ☐ Woodland
- ☐ Meadows
- ☐ A pond or wetland area
- ☐ Other
- ☐ No action yet

4. Our college's mowing regime supports nature by (choose all that apply):

- ☐ Having a planned, nature-friendly cutting regime (e.g. leaving areas of medium and high growth to encourage meadow species to flower and set seed)
- ☐ Removing cuttings from meadow areas to reduce nutrient input
- ☐ Leaving uncut areas at habitat edges (e.g. woodlands, hedgerows, field edges)
- ☐ Managing for grassland fungi (e.g. by regularly mowing and removing cuttings on woodland edges)
- ☐ Other
- ☐ No action yet

5. Our college makes space for overwintering species by (choose all that apply):

- ☐ Leaving seedheads intact where practical
- ☐ Creating piles of dead material where practical
- ☐ Leaving log piles after tree work
- ☐ Other
- ☐ No action yet

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6. In the last year, our college has been actively engaged in planting or managing trees and/or hedgerows for wildlife on our land or in the local community, including by (choose all that apply):

- ☐ Planting or managing native trees and/or hedgerows on our land
- ☐ Helping fund native tree and/or hedgerow planting and management locally
- ☐ Volunteering in native tree and/or hedgerow planting and management initiatives locally
- ☐ No action yet

7. Our college recognises that healthy soils are critical for the flourishing of biodiversity. Our college (choose all that apply):

- ☐ Improves soil organic matter (e.g. by composting organic waste on site, mulching, using peat-free products)
- ☐ Minimises soil disturbance and erosion (e.g. by using no dig and/or other soil-friendly cultivation methods)
- ☐ Maintains vegetation cover (e.g. by planting cover crops)
- ☐ Supports healthy soil biodiversity
- ☐ Other
- ☐ No action yet

8. Our college avoids the use of synthetic fertilisers, pesticides or herbicides and encourages our partners to do the same.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (used sometimes, occasionally or sparingly)

9. Our college has taken measures to increase our resilience to climate change and extreme weather by (choose all that apply):

- ☐ Protecting the soil (e.g. by mulching to reduce water loss)
- ☐ Creating or maintaining shady areas for people and wildlife
- ☐ Rainwater collection (e.g. with water butts or a reservoir)
- ☐ River restoration or flood alleviation projects
- ☐ Creating wet mud patches to help nesting birds such as house martins and swallows
- ☐ Creating or maintaining a food forest or forest garden

- ☐ Tree planting for climate resilience (e.g. by planting drought-resistant or disease-resistant species/varieties, or species/varieties able to withstand extremes of wet and dry)
- ☐ Other
- ☐ No action yet

Theme 2: Monitoring and citizen science

10. Our college monitors and reviews the impact our plan for nature is making for biodiversity.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Partly
- ☐ No

11. Our college undertakes citizen science activities, including wildlife surveys, on our land to monitor changes, including (choose all that apply):

- ☐ The Big Garden Birdwatch
- ☐ The Big Butterfly Count
- ☐ Churches Count on Nature
- ☐ Regularly gathering data and inputting it into a national database (e.g. iRecord/iNaturalist/ObsIdentify)
- ☐ Other
- ☐ No action yet

12. Our college engages with A Rocha UK's Target 25 (T25) or similar projects to help declining species, taxonomic groups and habitats (on our own land or other land in the community, e.g. ARUK Partner in Action land) by (choose all that apply):

- ☐ Promoting the project to college staff and students
- ☐ Taking action on one or more T25 species, groups or habitats
- ☐ Supporting those working on T25 or similar (e.g. by volunteering)
- ☐ No action yet

Eco College survey questions

Theme 3: People

13. Our college regularly takes part in a community litter pick / beach clean / river clean, etc.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

14. Our college provides opportunities to enjoy, nurture and protect creation by providing (choose all that apply):

- ☐ Relevant interpretive material (e.g. nature display boards or leaflets)
- ☐ Benches / places to sit and contemplate
- ☐ A wildlife trail
- ☐ A labyrinth
- ☐ Adaptations to improve accessibility to nature (e.g. ramps, raised beds, appropriate path surfaces, handrails or braille signs)
- ☐ Ways to engage with, and facilitate access for, people who are less likely to access nature (e.g. marginalised and/or minority groups)
- ☐ Nature prayer corners / meditation spaces
- ☐ Nature sounds garden
- ☐ Feel and touch spaces
- ☐ Nature memorial garden
- ☐ Discovery corner
- ☐ Bug palaces and reptile walls
- ☐ Other
- ☐ No action yet

15. Our college actively encourages college staff and students to nurture and protect our own land or other land by (choose all that apply):

- ☐ Holding outdoor worship
- ☐ Holding wildlife activities or events (e.g. dawn chorus walk, local nature-focused walks)
- ☐ Encouraging signing up for A Rocha UK's 'Wild Christian' programme
- ☐ Getting involved in practical land management or gardening activities
- ☐ Actively engaging marginalised and/or minority groups

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- ☐ Conservation volunteering
- ☐ Promoting citizen science
- ☐ Other
- ☐ No action yet

Pathway 2: Our college does not own any land

Commitment

2. Our college recognises the significant contribution Christian land owners can make to the UK's target of 30% of land protected for nature by 2030. We seek to influence land management in our local area and work in partnership with other organisations or community groups to manage land for nature.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Partly
- ☐ No

Theme 1: Biodiversity

3. Our college encourages wildlife to flourish by working with other organisations or community groups to provide (choose all that apply):

- ☐ Wildlife habitat features (e.g. bird boxes, bat boxes, bug hotels, hedgehog houses)
- ☐ Wildlife food resources (e.g. bird feeders, berry-producing shrubs, seed-bearing trees, wildflowers)
- ☐ Wildlife water resources (e.g. ponds, bird baths, drinking stations)
- ☐ Hedges, shrubs or small trees
- ☐ Wild, scrubby areas (e.g. nettles, brambles, weeds in paving)
- ☐ Woodland
- ☐ Meadows
- ☐ A pond or wetland area
- ☐ Other
- ☐ No action yet

4. In the last year, our college has been actively engaged in planting or managing trees and/or hedgerows for wildlife in partnership with a conservation charity or local community by (choose all that apply):

- ☐ Helping to fund tree and/or hedgerow planting or management
- ☐ Planting or managing trees and/or hedgerows
- ☐ No action yet

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5. Our college has taken measures to increase our resilience to climate change and extreme weather by working in partnership with other organisations to (choose all that apply):

- ☐ Protect the soil (e.g. by mulching to reduce water loss)
- ☐ Create or maintain shady areas for people and wildlife
- ☐ Collect rainwater (e.g.in water butts or reservoirs)
- ☐ Restore rivers or assist with flood alleviation projects
- ☐ Enhance habitats for wildlife resilience (e.g. by creating wet mud patches to aid nesting birds such as house martins and swallows)
- ☐ Create or maintain a food forest or forest garden
- ☐ Plant trees for climate resilience (e.g. drought-resistant/disease-resistant species/varieties or species/varieties able to withstand extremes of wet and dry)
- ☐ Other
- ☐ No action yet

Theme 2: Monitoring and citizen science

6. Our college undertakes or promotes citizen science activities including wildlife surveys or other activities that record species and monitor population changes (participation might be with a local church or conservation partner, e.g. an ARUK Partner in Action, or in a community garden / park). These include (choose all that apply):

- ☐ The Big Garden Birdwatch
- ☐ The Big Butterfly Count
- ☐ Churches Count on Nature
- ☐ Regularly gathering data and inputting it into a national database (e.g. iRecord/iNaturalist/ObsIdentify)
- ☐ Other
- ☐ No action yet

Eco College survey questions

7. Our college engages with A Rocha UK's Target 25 (T25) or similar projects to help declining species, taxonomic groups and habitats (on our own land or other land in the community, e.g. ARUK Partner in Action land) by (choose all that apply):

- ☐ Promoting the project to college staff and students
- ☐ Taking action on one or more T25 species, groups or habitats
- ☐ Supporting those working on T25 or similar (e.g. by volunteering)
- ☐ No action yet

Theme 3: People

8. Our college regularly takes part in a community litter pick / beach clean / river clean etc.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

9. Our college actively encourages college staff and students to nurture and protect land by (choose all that apply):

- ☐ Holding outdoor worship
- ☐ Holding wildlife activities or events (e.g. dawn chorus walk, local nature-focused walks)
- ☐ Encouraging signing up for A Rocha UK's 'Wild Christian' programme
- ☐ Getting involved in practical land management or gardening activities
- ☐ Actively engaging with marginalised and/or minority groups
- ☐ Conservation volunteering
- ☐ Promoting citizen science
- ☐ Other
- ☐ No action yet