

Wise and Wonderful: The Gift and Responsibility of God's Creation

Hope for the Future – Personal Lifestyle Changes in Response to Ecological concerns

nb The headings below are borrowed from Eco church in recognition of the parallels between church and home.

Worship and Teaching

All God's creation at heart of life
Prayers for creation, community, humanity
Time out with Children as learning experience – explore rural landscape
Meeting/chatting with neighbours
Tending God's garden
House groups with Eco material
Eco groups for children
Reading and sharing

Host Eco events – egg hunts, bird, flower or insect counts
Meals or cakes with Fair trade ingredients
Sharing worship material
Celebrate Christian events with neighbours
Shared coffee morning in the street, front or back garden
Include prayers from environment sources in personal worship

Buildings

Eco survey or Thermal survey: identify heat loss/cold spots
Check windows, doors, floors for draughts
Breathable "sock" at open chimneys
Repair missing or poor mortar
Lime mortar for stone-build with no cavity
Replace missing roof slates
Repair water ingress/leaks as they occur
Make a safe and welcoming threshold
Instal LED bulbs
Insulate hot and cold water tank
Install cover for key holes + letter box
Research with Energy Saving Trust etc
Team up with neighbours on a shared project, e.g. windows, doors, solar, insulation
Ensure paved front gardens drain well
Grant funding for specifics e.g. insulation
Off-set excess emissions

Insulate roof space, incl. flat roof
300mm insulation in loft. Do not compress
Insulate under the floorboards
Insulate walls internally or externally
Check for continuous damp proof course
Double or triple glaze windows
Review energy provider for 'Green Option'
Seek out green options for energy, building materials, insulation, maintenance, paint
Independent valves on each radiator
Set zero emissions target for 5 or 10 years
Make plan to achieve set target
Monitor energy and water use + plan to reduce
Solar gain as home heat support and cooling mechanism.
Ensure through air circulation on hot days
Shade windows to cool a room
Turn off appliances rather than on standby

Land

Favour insects over insecticides
Peat free compost
Feed birds
Plant and seed share or swop
Bat or bird boxes
Let the spring grass grow, mow pathway + cut in autumn
Scatter wild flowers
Scope to install renewables
Collect and use rainwater in water butts
Allow air behind planting against a wall to prevent damp build up.

Make a compost heap
Grow vegetables relative to available space
Tool sharing scheme
Help a neighbour as needed
Create wildflower meadow
Work towards organic gardening
Adopt a 'no dig' policy
Water vegetables only with can or hidden drip hose *timer?* [rather than sprinkler]
Water during cooler periods of day
Celebrate harvests
Plant a tree or trees

Community and Global Engagement

Let a neighbour use some of your spare garden for growing vegetables
Is there scope at a locally for your garden expertise?
Do you need to off-set some of your carbon emissions with: tree planting, toilet twinning, sustainable farming projects, water on tap scheme, tools for farmers for developing world
Support charities in environmental mission
Host meetings (at church) with invited speaker on an eco topic

Start a car share
Walking crocodile to school
Start or participate in Local farmers market
Tend a patch of spare land, [check with Council] – weed, plant bulbs, wildflowers
Responsible recycling
Donate unwanted items to charity
Help a neighbour with a garden
Respond positively to local issues, waste collections, transport, roads etc
Suggest a green scheme to local councillors
Host hustings (at church) posing questions on environment issues

Lifestyle

Rethink, Reinvent, Redefine – WRAP UK
Love food. Hate waste – WRAP UK
Reuse, Recycle, Repurpose, Reduce, Repair
Walk/cycle instead of car on short journeys
Take regular walks
Car sharing to church
When replacing gas boiler consider non-fossil fuel alternatives or add air source heat pump to gas system
Look for grant funding or eco loans
Develop affordable action plan at home for 2-5 years hence

Limit flights to essential only – even work ones may not be necessary
Celebrate Earth day or Christian Aid week at home
Replace older appliances when no longer energy efficient
Buy highest energy rated appliance where appropriate
Use bus or train instead of car
Electric vehicle to replace older diesel or petrol car may be cost effective
Work from home some days a week

Aim for improvement in air quality and reduced emissions
Review every purchase from alcohol to meat to toothpaste. Is it Fairtrade, organic, local, ethical, Eco friendly and sustainable?
Avoid: plastics generally, clothes from sweat shops, excess packaging
Recycled plastics may be useful – fencing?
Switch off electrical goods when not in use
Ditto lighting
Assess carbon footprint of leisure activity
Consider the environment in any purchase
Collect rainwater for watering in the garden
Microplastics come from synthetic clothes in washing. Avoid or wash carefully.
Select clothes to last not ‘wear and throw’
Recycle or repurpose old clothes
Turn down thermostat by 1°C
Porch as barrier to heat loss
Measure personal carbon footprint.

Add extra layer of clothes and lower thermostat
Buy seasonal and local food
Animal friendly cosmetics & other goods
Avoid food waste
Cook at home and eat together
Knit or sew to make something for the home or yourself
Enjoy picnics without debris
Make gifts for birthday or Christmas
Install a sand [egg] timer in the shower
Install a brick or sack in the water cistern for reduced flush
Use less water; add a nozzle to taps
Drink tap water where safe to do so
Recycle unwanted furniture to charity
Shop at charity shops for all sorts
Put washing outside rather than tumble dry
Ethical banking and investment
Read articles/books on sustainability

There’s more – add your own ideas and suggestions.

Some websites

<https://urc.org.uk/caring-for-creation>

<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/path-net-zero-overview/>

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/nature-environment/energy-buildings/content-section-2.4.1>

<https://www.wwdp.org.uk/>

www.ired.co.uk

<https://360carbon.org/>

<https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator1.html>

<https://www.climatestewards.org/>

<https://operationnoah.org/>

<https://christianclimateaction.org/get-involved/regional-groups/>

<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/>

<https://ruthvalerio.net/publications/saying-yes-to-life-the-archbishop-of-canterburys-lent-book-2020/>

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/>

<https://www.reform-magazine.co.uk/>
www.christian-ecology.org.uk/bap-env.htm
<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/>
<https://thetimeisnow.uk/>
<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/what-is-fairtrade/>
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/carbon-calculator>
<http://www.carbon-calculator.org.uk/>
<https://www.climatecare.org/calculator/>
<https://www.permaculture.org.uk/whats-going-on/transition-towns>
<https://www.permaculture.org.uk/>
<https://greeneruk.org/>
<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/>
<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/faith-members>
<https://christianclimateaction.org/>
<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>
<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/resources>
<https://www.earthhour.org/>
<https://www.climatesunday.org/>
<https://urc.org.uk/latest-news/3785-could-you-hold-a-climate-sunday>
<https://ukcop26.org/>
<http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Greening-Church-Buildings.pdf>
<https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Lets-talk-about-the-climate-emergency-PDF-.pdf>
<https://greenchristian.org.uk/carbon-footprinting-green-christian-workshop/>
<https://globaloptimism.com/> - Christiana Figueres
<https://climatekids.nasa.gov/how-to-help/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greta_Thunberg
<https://wrap.org.uk/about-us>

There's more – keep looking and sharing!

<https://www.kateraworth.com/>