

Moldgreen URC in Huddersfield have recently been awarded Silver Eco Church status by the [A Rocha UK – Caring for God's Earth](#) organisation. This is an incredible achievement and below is how they were able to achieve it.



The Church had a headstart with our elder Kevan Shuttleworth, a vegan cyclist, nature lover and champion of all things eco. Kevan led Moldgreen's first eco worship session and a series of workshops to help the church recognise and understand the need for change. He became Moldgreen's 'eco warrior' encouraging all in our fellowship and recording our progress with A Rocha.



Moldgreen URC are also indebted to the hard-working Worship Group, who work with the Minister, Reverend Sarah Fitton, for their efforts in achieving the Worship and Teaching aspects of the Eco Church requirements; including special services, guest speakers and the like.

The Maintenance Team put in lots of hard and innovative work for the Buildings category, installing water butts, cycle racks, low-energy lighting, extra insulation, new windows and so on. The church is again grateful to

One Community, All Churches Fund and Yorkshire Synod Mission Fund who awarded grants towards the costs of these projects.

In the Land category, the church owes much to our Church Related Community Work minister Rosie Buxton, who has worked with local schools to turn our church garden into a truly community-centred green space, very much fulfilling the Eco Church ethos.

The Lifestyle category required input and commitment from the whole church congregation, in their personal lives as much as their church lives. Fairtrade, carbon footprint, ethical investment were some of the areas explored.



The Community and Global Engagement category is possibly the most challenging for the church, and the one where there is still lots to do as the church looks towards working for a Gold award. In this area as well as all the others, the Church Secretary Christine Hall has been a driving and organisational force pushing our achievement of the Silver Award. None of the above was done in isolation. Displays were put up and invitations were sent to all the users of our building to become involved raising funds for toilet twinning, switching off lights for 'Earth Hour' each Spring and taking part in the RSPB birdwatch.

It has been fun, the church has learnt a lot and has worked hard. More importantly there has been a shift in the thinking of Moldgreen URC and opportunities to engage with the users of our building and the wider community demonstrates how we, as Christians, can play a role in the care of God's creation.