

Annex to URC Yorkshire Synod Environment Policy

[Reviewed January 2025]

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Annex 1 URC Environment Policy

<https://urc.org.uk/environmental-policy/> adopted by General Assembly 2022 to take effect from January 2023

Synod asks churches to always ensure they have a current URC Environment Policy in their Eco portfolio. In presenting the URC Policy we are conscious of on-going change:

The science has become more definite in its assertion of a Climate Emergency since the 2019 Policy was approved, with associated deadlines moving on. We are now asking churches to be zero carbon by 2030.

Annex 2 Net Zero Carbon

“In June 2019, parliament passed legislation requiring the government to reduce the UK’s net emissions of greenhouse gases by 100% relative to 1990 levels by 2050. Doing so would make the UK a ‘net zero’ emitter. Prior to this, the UK was committed to reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% of their 1990 levels, also by 2050.

What does 'net zero' mean? Net zero refers to achieving a balance between the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere. There are two different routes to achieving net zero, which work in tandem: reducing existing emissions and actively removing greenhouse gases.

A *gross-zero* target would mean reducing all emissions to zero. This is not realistic, so instead the *net-zero* target recognises that there will be some emissions but that these need to be fully offset, predominantly through natural carbon sinks such as oceans and forests. (In the future, it may be possible to use artificial carbon sinks to increase carbon removal, research into these technologies is ongoing.)

When the amount of carbon emissions produced are cancelled out by the amount removed, the UK will be a net-zero emitter. The lower the emissions, the easier this becomes.

Why is the government trying to achieve net zero? In May 2019, the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), a non-departmental public body that advises the government on the climate, recommended that the UK should aim to be net zero on all greenhouse gases by 2050. This would keep the UK in line with the commitments it made as part of the 2016 Paris Agreement to keep global warming under 2 degrees". [Institute for Government.]

Synod recommends churches and Synod aim to achieve net zero emissions by 2030. We believe this can be achieved with forethought and whole church cooperation.

Carbon neutrality refers to achieving net-zero carbon dioxide emissions. This can be done by balancing emissions of carbon dioxide with its removal (often through carbon offsetting) or by eliminating emissions from society (the transition to the "post-carbon economy"). It is used in the context of carbon dioxide-releasing processes associated with transportation, energy production, agriculture, and industry.

Although the term "carbon neutral" is used, a carbon footprint also includes other greenhouse gases, usually carbon-based, measured in terms of their carbon dioxide equivalence. The term climate-neutral reflects the broader inclusiveness of other greenhouse gases in climate change, even if CO₂ is the most abundant. The term "net zero" is increasingly used to describe a broader and more comprehensive commitment to decarbonization and climate action, moving beyond carbon neutrality by including more activities under the scope of indirect emissions, and often including a science-based target on emissions reduction, as opposed to relying solely on offsetting. Wikipedia

See also Annex 7 A Guide to going Greener

Annex 11 sets out suggested one, two and five year plans for guidance in each church.

Annex 3 URC Vision 2020 Statement 10 of Ten Statements

<https://urc.org.uk/vision2020/>

Statement 10: The integrity of creation: “We will be a Church that has taken significant steps to safeguard the integrity of creation, to sustain and renew the life of the earth”.

The changing climate and its consequences for all life on planet earth cannot be over emphasised as the most significant underlying issue of our time. Being an intergenerational community of faith that trust in the God of creation past, present and to come, it is vital that the Church recognizes the reality present in environmental debates. We must not neglect science. Our churches, reflecting faith in God the creator and sustainer of life in all its fullness, must discover the radical voice of care for the earth ... supported by the way we live. [abridged and altered].

Some suggested local Indicators:

Carrying out an environmental audit and implementing the resulting action plan.
Giving voice to the God whose life and love is expressed in all creation through worship, Bible study and prayer.
Involving children and young people in activities focusing on care for the environment.
Production of a piece of community artwork celebrating the Creator God.

Synod Indicators

The number of Eco-churches^a with clear environmental action plans.
Developing and implementing plans to become an ‘eco-Synod’.
The number of churches receiving training and support on issues of climate justice and environmental care.

^a See: Eco-churches at A Rocha - <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

Assembly Indicators

Significant year-on-year cuts to the URC’s carbon footprint.
The development of a FURY strategy responding to the challenge of climate change.

Annex 4 Further Reading - COP 15, COP26 and COP 29

The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 21 was held in Paris in 2015. It was the 21st yearly session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Conference negotiated *the Paris Agreement*, a global agreement on the reduction of climate changes, the text of which represented a consensus of the representatives of the 196 attending parties. According to the organizing committee at the outset of the talks, the expected key result was an agreement to set a goal of limiting global warming to "well below 2° Celsius" compared to pre-industrial levels. The agreement calls for zero net anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions to be reached during the second half of the 21st century. In the adopted version of the Paris Agreement, the parties will also "pursue efforts to" limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C. The 1.5 °C goal will require zero emissions sometime between 2030 and 2050, according to some scientists.

COP26. The United Nations Climate Change Conference in November 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/cop26>

UK enshrined a new target in law to slash emissions by 78% by 2035 The UK's sixth Carbon Budget incorporated the UK's share of international aviation and shipping emissions for the first time, to bring the UK more than three-quarters of the way to net zero by 2050.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-enshrines-new-target-in-law-to-slash-emissions-by-78-by-2035>

COP 29 **The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan** from 11 to 22 November 2024. See <https://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/issues> and <https://www.gov.uk/search/all?keywords=cop+29>

The agenda boiled down to two hot topics

1. **Fossil fuel phase out** – The first time fossil fuels were even mentioned in a COP agreement was in 2023 at COP28, where the final document included the phrase “a transition away from fossil fuels”. However, at COP29, the host country appeared more focused on striking new fossil fuel deals, than bringing up the phase-out plans on the agenda.
2. **Climate justice** – Countries in the Global South need support to diversify their energy systems and adapt their infrastructure to a changing climate. Sadly, COP29 failed this test. It identified only \$300 billion of the \$1.3 trillion of annual external finance calculated to be necessary by 2035. Intense negotiations ran 33 hours beyond the allotted time, completing in Baku at 2:30am on the Sunday morning. Some senior negotiators had only managed one or two hours sleep in 48 hours. The outcome was seen by many as a “betrayal” while others considered it as a first step forward in difficult international circumstances.

Annex 5 Synod Green Apostles

Key aspects of the role

Green Apostles will endeavour to:

- be well informed on the issues, programmes and campaigns around climate change; to seek out best practice, research current science and recognise the precariousness of life on the planet during this century
- be proactive in highlighting the issues in their synods by offering to speak to churches and synod meetings/groups;
- provide regular updates on action and resources at synod meetings and in other ways;
- take a leading role in supporting the synods as they seek to implement aspects of the Environmental Policy particularly addressed to synods, as follows:

- ❖ encourage their churches to gain ‘Eco-Church’ status; in so doing they will encourage churches to see the positive benefits in terms of the financial savings that environmentally-friendly practices can bring;
- ❖ develop and implement plans to become ‘Eco-synods’;
- ❖ ensure that their buildings, including manses, are environment friendly through the use of energy-saving technologies and by identifying and using renewable sources of energy as appropriate;
- ❖ encourage their churches to work in collaboration with, or initiate, local transition or sustainability groups;
- ❖ encourage their churches to receive training and support on issues of climate justice and environmental care;
- ❖ appoint one or more ‘Green Apostles’ to monitor progress on carbon reduction in their synod (if preferred this role could be differently named, for example ‘Sustainability Ambassador’);
- ❖ draw up an ‘environmental charter’ along the lines of that adopted by North West Synod in 2015.

The role of ‘Green Apostles’ has increased significance as they work with the synods to implement the Environmental Policy for the United Reformed Church which was adopted by the General Assembly in 2022 to take effect from January 2023. The policy is a statement of intent, providing a basis for appropriate action while recognising the efforts many churches have already taken to reduce their carbon footprint

General Assembly has also set up of a task group to monitor the URC’s progress towards meeting its commitment to reduce its carbon footprint. This group might also review the role of Green Apostles.

See also the URC Church and Society page <https://urc.org.uk/who-we-are/what-we-do/church-society/>, from which you can access the JPIT page on Climate Justice – or go direct using <https://jpit.uk/issues/environment>

Annex 6 Eco church explained

Eco Synod, Eco church links and key goals A Rocha: *Eco Synod* is an award programme that helps Synods to look at their own environmental impact as well as encouraging local churches to participate in *Eco Church*. Synods progress partly according to the number of congregations in their area achieving the Eco Church award at different levels.

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

Details on Eco Synod and Eco Church are found at:

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/denominational-awards/eco-synod/>

Eco Synod status will be given to a Synod when it has:

Registered its intent to become an Eco Synod

Commissioned an individual or group - To coordinate progress within the Synod.

Written an environmental policy - that has been agreed by the Synod meeting. This should include points on travel, the environmental maintenance of its manses (where appropriate) and a commitment to reducing Synod carbon emissions (taking into account recommendations contained within the 2023 URC Environmental Policy).

Gained the appropriate levels of local church registrations and Awards for Eco Church

- Bronze Eco Synod: 10% of local churches registered; 5% of local churches awarded
- Silver Eco Synod: 20% of local churches registered; 10% of local churches awarded
- Gold Eco Synod: 30% of local churches registered; 20% of local churches awarded

Achieved the relevant Eco Church Award level - For its Synod offices (where appropriate) and land (where appropriate)

Embedded environmental issues - Having sought to ensure that environmental issues are integrated within the discipleship development provision of the Synod, including continuing ministerial education.

Managed Synod investments ethically - With due consideration of the environmental implications of those investments, taking into account the [2019 updated URC's Ethical Investment Guidelines on Climate Change Issues](#).

Worked with other Synods, denominations and/or faith groups - To encourage greater environmental action, including promoting Eco Church as a helpful tool

Established the habit of recording and celebrating individual environmental initiatives

Annex 7 A less than exhaustive Guide to being Greener, based on headings in Eco church

The Synod Eco-group encourages churches and individuals to calculate their carbon footprints with a view to reducing these to net zero. Links to webpages to help with recording and monitoring your church and personal carbon footprints can be found in Annex 8

Worship and Teaching

All God's creation at heart of life	Host Eco events – egg hunts, bird, flower or insect counts
Prayers for creation, community, humanity	Meals or cakes with Fair trade ingredients
Time out with Children as learning experience – explore rural landscape	Sharing worship material
Meeting/chatting with neighbours	Celebrate Christian events with neighbours
Tending God's garden	Shared coffee morning in the street, front or back garden
House groups with Eco material	Include prayers from environment sources in personal worship
Eco groups for children	
Reading and sharing	

Buildings

Eco survey or Thermal survey: identify heat loss/cold spots	Insulate roof space, incl. flat roof
Check windows, doors, floors for draughts	300mm insulation in loft. Do not compress
Breathable "sock" at open chimneys.	Insulate under the floorboards
	Insulate walls internally or externally.

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
Install 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

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 swap
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, climate Sunday
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
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.

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
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

“GREENING CHURCH BUILDINGS” from Eco Congregation Scotland:

<http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Greening-Church-Buildings.pdf>

“**Ideas for Action**” below is an extract from the Eco-Congregation Scotland publication “GREENING CHURCH BUILDINGS” which can be down-loaded from the website

This guide is designed as an introduction to the issues surrounding the care and management of church buildings and offers guiding principles which all churches can follow.

Question	Best practice
Do you read your energy meters?	<i>The first step to good energy management is to know how much energy you use. Read your meters monthly and report the figures to Kirk Session or Board.</i>
Do you keep records of your energy use?	<i>Keep a record to check your bills and to compare year on year performance. Ensure you have not been charged more than 5% VAT and are not paying CCL (Climate Change Levy) on your bill.</i>
Do you let your energy company know your energy use?	<i>For many accounts you can supply your own readings to ensure your bills are accurate. Do check you are not receiving inaccurate or estimated bills from your supplier.</i>

What tariff are you on?

Question	Best practice
Have you considered joining the Church's Utility Purchasing Scheme?	<i>Compare your current tariff with the tariff available through the General Trustees.</i>
Who supplies your gas/electricity/oil or other fuel?	<i>If you are not in the Church of Scotland Utility Purchasing Group and have stayed with same supplier for years it may be worth considering changing.</i>

Where do you go for advice?

Question	Best practice
Have you had an energy survey of your building recently?	<i>The Energy Saving Trust (EST) can provide free advice and may be able to carry out a survey of your building: contact them at the telephone number below.</i>
Do you know the carbon footprint of the energy used in your church buildings?	<i>You can find out using the simple calculator on the Church of Scotland website.</i>
Do you have a plan to manage your energy use?	<i>If you know how much energy you use and have had an energy survey draw up a plan to help you manage and reduce your energy use.</i>

Annex 8 Some websites to support worship, property, community and global outreach (Politics and Campaigning)

Worship - resources

- <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/> World Day of Prayer
- <https://www.climatesunday.org/> Climate Sunday is an initiative calling on all local churches across Great Britain & Ireland to hold a climate-focused service. Though prepared for a Sunday before COP26 in November 2021, the resources are still relevant today and could still be used

- <https://urc.org.uk/could-you-hold-a-climate-sunday/> Reform magazine article – “Could you hold a Climate Sunday?” . Published in April 2021, it is still relevant today
- <https://greenchristian.org.uk/resources/prayer-guide/> Green Christian – Prayer Guide - contains lots of useful links about a range of related issues

Property - Greening our buildings

- www.ired.co.uk Thermal Imaging Surveys; may not be appropriate for most churches
- <https://greenchristian.org.uk/carbon-footprinting-green-christian-workshop/> Carbon Footprinting – a Green Christian Workshop
- <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Greening-Church-Buildings.pdf> paper from Eco Church Scotland on greening church buildings (referred to in Annex 7 above)
- <https://wrap.org.uk/about-us> WRAP promotes and encourages sustainable resource use through product design, waste minimisation, re-use, recycling and reprocessing of waste materials. WRAP is a global environmental action NGO transforming our broken product and food systems to create Circular Living for the benefit of climate, nature and people. It is a non-governmental organisation rooted in technical expertise, impartial evidence base and independent convening power. For over twenty years, WRAP has delivered programmes to benefit the environment — from reducing CO2 emissions and waste to restoring nature and enhancing people’s lives (from website)

Community - Educational resources

- <https://greenchristian.org.uk/carbon-footprinting-green-christian-workshop/> Carbon Footprinting – a Green Christian Workshop
- <https://greenchristian.org.uk/resources/> Green Christian – General resources (includes worship)
- <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/resources> Christian Aid Week - resources
- <https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Lets-talk-about-the-climate-emergency-PDF-.pdf> A pack of materials that has been produced as a resource for use by churches to get their congregations talking about climate change, care for creation and how Christians can engage with and support COP26 when it is able to come to Glasgow.
- <https://climatekids.nasa.gov/how-to-help/> **Aimed at children**, Climate Kids is produced by the Earth Science Communications Team at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Targeting upper-elementary-aged children, the site is full of games, activities and articles that make climate science accessible and engaging

Global Outreach - Politics and Campaigning

- <https://www.reform-magazine.co.uk/2021/04/a-good-question-protest-how-far-would-you-go/> Reform magazine article – “Protest: How far would you go?” Published in 2021, it still remains food for thought

- <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/what-is-fairtrade/> Fairtrade - one simple way to spark change. Campaigns for greater price and power for farmers and for rapid action on environmental sustainability and climate justice. Demands fairer trade deals for the farmers; our actions can help influence businesses and decision makers to step up and drive the change that is needed
- <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week> Information about Christian Aid Week 2025
- <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns> Christian Aid’s campaigning page. Covers a variety of topics to campaign for, with drop-down menu to select from (shown) **RECOMMENDED**

- Israel/Palestine campaigns
- Talk to your political representatives
- Climate Justice campaign
- Campaigns and activism resources for my church
- Activism content for young adults
- Climate justice resources for black majority churches

- https://www.gov.uk/environment/climate-change-international-action#policy_and_engagement Government website “Climate change international action - Policy papers and consultations” Possibly useful for background information
- <https://www.unfccc.int/cop29> Information about the 29th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP29) The United Nations Climate Change Conference Possibly useful for background information
- <https://debtjustice.org.uk/> Debt Justice, formerly Jubilee Debt Campaign, exists to build collective power to end debt that exploits people and the planet Might resonate with people who were involved in the original Jubilee 2000 campaign

Global Outreach - Campaigning and support groups

- <https://www.climatestewards.org/> Carbon Stewards – Not really campaigning; but offers carbon offsets, and works with individuals, charities and churches to provide advice and support in their carbon reduction journey.
- <https://operationnoah.org/> Operation Noah - a Christian charity working with the Church to inspire action on the climate crisis. Covers a variety of topics to campaign for, with drop-down menu to select from (shown) **RECOMMENDED**

CAMPAIGNS RESOURCES NEWS

Bright Now Campaign

Climate & Nature Bill

Big Bank Switch

Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

Stop Rosebank

Warm This Winter

Climate Coalition

- <https://christianclimateaction.org/> Christian Climate Action - a community of Christians supporting each other to take meaningful action in the face of imminent and catastrophic anthropogenic climate breakdown – concentrates on direct action, public witness for the climate.

Scroll down to “What’s New” for current campaigns as below

- WHAT’S NEW? -

[Walking for the 16 Climate Prisoners](#)

[No More Oil and Gas](#)

[Let’s Get the Church Banking Fossil Free](#)

[Writing to Climate Activists In Prison](#)

[Healing the Earth, Healing Ourselves: a multi faith gathering](#)

Click on “Local Groups” in the menu bar to find a group near you. This a grass-roots movement, and members are free to take action on whatever climate issue they feel called to. The website lists some current issues that CCA members have formed working groups around. If you are passionate about any of the issues listed, CCA would love you to join a working group.

- <https://christianclimateaction.org/get-involved/regional-groups/> Christian Climate information on where there are local groups and their contact details
- <https://greenchristian.org.uk/> Green Christian: a community of ordinary Christians from all backgrounds and traditions, who, inspired by faith, work to care for Creation through prayer, living simply, public witness, campaigning and mutual encouragement. Green Christian supports various campaigns at different times, some of which are their own campaigns. Current campaigns and other activities are:

[Green Christian Online Workshops](#)

Our Green Economics Project – [Joy in Enough](#)

[Deep Waters](#): A project of [Borrowed Time](#)

[Borrowed Time](#) – Building Pastoral Care in the Climate Emergency

[Rainforest Fund Project](#) – Raising money to save endangered habitat:- Christian care

[LOAF](#) – our food campaign

[Get involved](#) – our page of ideas of what to do

[Green Christian on the Road](#) – let us come to you!

[Respond to the Climate and Creation Emergency](#) – go to this web area for the latest campaigns

[Operation Noah](#) – started by Green Christian, this is the place to go for campaigning on church investments and land use.

- <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/> The Climate Coalition - the UK's largest group of people dedicated to action against climate change; a group of over 130 organisations — including the National Trust, Women's Institute, Oxfam, and RSPB — with a combined supporter base of 20 million.

Promotes the “Great Big Green Week” which they say is the UK’s biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature (in 2025 it is 7th to 15th June) – and “Show the Love”, which, according to the website, every February, “Show The Love” has grown public support for climate action through local events, heartfelt conversations and green heart craftivism in every corner of the country. Not an easy website to navigate and not much about campaigning

- <https://www.permaculture.org.uk/> A network empowering people to make the right choices for a sustainable future using a design approach based on understandings of how nature works. It’s not really about campaigning, but about empowering more people to take climate action using permaculture through:

- Climate Education in Schools
- Permaculture Demonstration Sites
- Community Climate Coaches

- <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/our-work/about-us> Christian Aid - a global movement of people, churches and local organisations see above under [Politics and Campaigning](#) for information about their campaigns page

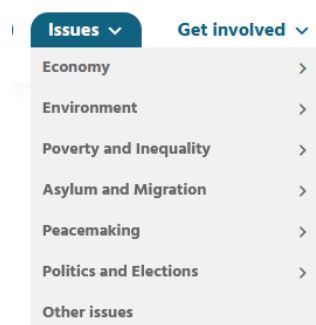
- <https://www.earthhour.org/> Earth Hour - one of the world's largest grassroots movements for the environment. Action by individuals rather than about group campaigning

- <https://globaloptimism.com/> Global Optimism exists to catalyse transformative actions in our world. Founded by Christiana Figueres - Global Optimism works to inspire and catalyse stubborn optimists around the world, to rise to the next level of our abilities, because it’s necessary to do so, and because together, we can. Listenable podcasts

Global Outreach - Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT)

- <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/issues/> The Joint Public Issues Team works with a number of partner organisations, programmes and other denominations, speaking together on matters of justice and sharing research and expertise: The issues are identified on this page as

RECOMMENDED



Their calendar identifies significant days throughout the year such as International Women’s Day and World Autism Awareness Day (but not Eat Ice Cream For Breakfast Day). The website provides a way in to campaigning on a variety of issues from a Christian perspective.

- <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/TTWUD-Flourishing.pdf> a conversation starter - Why you can’t solve the climate crisis without talking about the economy

The following links take you to the JPIT pages on the issues described

- <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/economy/> JPIT issue - The Economy
- <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/issues/environment/> JPIT issue - The Environment
- <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/issues/poverty-and-inequality/> JPIT issue - The Marginalised - Poverty and Inequality
- <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/issues/peacemaking/> JPIT issue - Peacemaking
- <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/issues/asylum-and-migration/> JPIT issue - Welcoming - Asylum and Migration From this webpage you can access the “Lift the Ban” campaign to give asylum seekers the right to work (or go to <https://lifttheban.co.uk/#high-street>) **RECOMMENDED**
- <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/issues/politics-and-elections/> JPIT issue - Politics and Elections

Annex 9 Sample On-line Carbon Calculators

Carbon calculators

- <https://carbon-calculator.climatehero.org> Climate Hero calculator – shows how to improve on what an individual is already doing **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**
- <https://360carbon.org/> 360⁰ - Calculates Church footprint **RECOMMENDED**
- <https://climatestewards.org/> - for the church audit and assessment. Climate Stewards is part of the worldwide A Rocha family caring for God’s creation
- <https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator1.html> free “Carbon Footprint” calculators for individuals for personal analysis, and for small businesses
- <https://carbonsavvy.uk/calculator/> Carbon Savvy - Calculates Your share of national infrastructure emissions: Quote from website : “The taster calculator takes just 1 minute and the popular calculator 5 minutes, both are based on information that most people have in their heads. The full calculator requires having your fuel bills to hand and takes around 45 minutes, giving you the satisfaction of picking up the smallest of changes you make in your lifestyle.”
- <https://www.climatecare.org/calculator/> Climate Care carbon calculator – focuses on off-setting the carbon footprint of your small business

- <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/> A WWF questionnaire to find your environmental footprint; quick and easy to do, though not clear how to interpret the results
- <https://www.lner.co.uk/tickets-savings/the-best-way-to-travel/carbon-calculator/> LNER Best Foot Forward – compares environmental impact of modes of transport
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/carbon-calculator> The MacKay carbon calculator - provides a model of the UK energy system (for educational purposes)

A REVIEW OF SOME OF THE ABOVE CARBON CALCULATORS

Carbon calculators

All the following ‘carbon calculators’ are on-line with many free to use. Please note, any ‘recommended’ comment is from other sources and not Green Apostle or URC.

360° <https://360carbon.org/>

RECOMMENDED FOR BUILDINGS

This calculator is useful to calculate a **Church footprint**

The best way to use this website is to sign-up for a user account so you can save your church's or non-profit's carbon footprint and track it over time.

Needs a fair amount of detailed information about usage including travel, and utilities as well as waste disposal

Creating new carbon footprints for organisations is dependent on having a user account.

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

RECOMMENDED FOR INDIVIDUALS

This site gives carbon calculators for Individuals and Small Businesses

Individuals - Following your calculation, you can offset / neutralise your emissions through one of our climate-friendly projects.

Good for individuals. Needs a fair amount of detailed information about usage including travel, and utilities as well as leisure activities, food consumed, etc

Small Businesses – users must create an account first before accessing this facility (we did not wish to create an account, so we have not assessed this facility)

The facility is available with *three versions - Basic - Micro Business Version (single building), Premium - Small Business Version (single building), and Elite - Small to Medium Size Business Version (Multiple Buildings & Sites)*

Carbon Savvy <https://carbonsavvy.uk/calculator/>

This calculator calculates your share of national infrastructure emissions

The **taster calculator** takes just 1 minute and the **popular calculator** 5 minutes. Both are based on information that most people have in their heads. The **full calculator** requires having your fuel bills to hand and takes around 30 minutes, giving you the satisfaction of picking up the smallest of changes you make in your lifestyle.

Taster Carbon Calculator : Easy to use – based on **life-style choices** rather than numerical data

Popular Carbon Calculator : Easy to use – based on life-style choices with some additional (numerical) details needed

Climate Care carbon calculator <https://www.climatecare.org/calculator/>

Calculator to offset the carbon footprint of your small business.

By using this carbon calculator to offset your footprint, you'll be supporting best practice projects that help the environment and local communities worldwide.

It calculates an amount you to pay to a “social justice” to offset your emissions

A good idea but lacking in instructions and not easy to use.

I would not recommend this calculator

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

A technical paper on how to calculate the total heat loss of a house; part of a free course on “Energy in buildings” (quite advanced)

Personal Environmental Footprint ‘Calculators’

Climate Hero Carbon Calculator https://carbon-calculator.climatehero.me/?source=GoogleAdwords&gclid=EAlaIQobChMIisHK3LG18AIV45PVCh1LnQsQEAAAYAiAAEgJ3BPD_BwE **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**

The questions are divided in three sections: **Housing, Travel** and **Consumption**

Based on life-style rather than numerical data, this calculator gives a comparison of your carbon footprint with world averages. More importantly it gives an analysis of what you are doing right to reduce your carbon footprint, and what you can do to reduce it further.

WWF <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/> **RECOMMENDED**

A questionnaire to find out how big your personal environmental footprint is compared to the world and UK averages. Questions relate more to **life-style rather than numerical data**, and do not depend on detailed figures

LNER Best Foot Forward <https://www.lner.co.uk/tickets-savings/the-best-way-to-travel/carbon-calculator/> **RECOMMENDED**

Not a footprint calculator but the user can instantly compare the environmental impact of any journey by train, car and plane by entering journey details. Results show just how little impact travelling by train has on the environment, compared to going by car or plane.

Simple to use and of educational value.

Environmental Pathways to Reducing Carbon Impact

The MacKay Carbon Calculator <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/carbon-calculator>
RECOMMENDED for educational purposes

The MacKay Carbon Calculator from this government website provides a model of the UK energy system that allows you to explore pathways to decarbonisation, including net zero by 2050.

You need to scroll down to open the calculator My 2050

You can then find your pathway to reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions to Net Zero by 2050 (-100% in the CO₂e meter) by:

- choosing your level of ambition from 1 (minimum effort) to 4 (extreme effort) for each of the levers of decarbonisation, namely transport, buildings, industry, ccs & hydrogen, land, bioenergy & waste
- limiting the number of extreme Level 4s you need to a few you think are most important

Annex 10 Further Reading

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

Green Christian – Prayer <https://greenchristian.org.uk/resources/prayer-guide/>

Green Christian – Resources <https://greenchristian.org.uk/resources/>

URC Reform magazine <https://www.reform-magazine.co.uk/>]contains articles, bible studies, etc from time to time]

On the path to net zero: an overview (Updated October 2020)

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

Ruth Valerio’s book “Saying Yes to Life” <https://ruthvalerio.net/publications/saying-yes-to-life-the-archbishop-of-canterburys-lent-book-2020/> - perfect for individuals and groups to think, reflect, pray and be challenged together.

Wikipedia article about Greta Thunberg https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greta_Thunberg

Kate Raworth – Exploring Doughnut Economics <https://www.kateraworth.com/>

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

Annex 11 Suggested Targets for Years 1, 2 and 5 for Green Apostle and Churches

2025	2026	2030
<p>Green Apostles Team to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. work towards achieving Bronze award as an Eco Synod in 2021 or early 2022. 2. engage with and work with churches not yet registered with Eco church to support them in their journey. 3. provide on-going support for churches already registered with Eco church towards achieving their next award, be that bronze, silver or gold. 	<p>Green Apostles Team to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. support churches as they work towards the introduction of an environment policy for their church and congregation 2. work with churches as they undertake an environment audit of their church and church buildings and manse, as appropriate. Direct churches towards recommended easy to use, audit sites that encourage churches to record their energy and water use which can then be used to calculate an initial assessment of CO2 emissions. 3. prepare and circulate a document for churches that will record energy and water use enabling churches to compare year on year reduction in CO2 emissions. 4. encourage churches to appoint an Environment Champion (and if possible, a small church team) that will liaise with the Synod’s Green Apostles, and with other church groups for training and support in collating information towards energy reduction targets for their church. 5. communicate fully with Environment Champions individually and collectively to share achievement, problem-solving, best practice and proposals with will encourage and support churches’ work in caring for God’s creation. Schedule bi-annual event for sharing and caring. 6. arrange an annual Green Apostle Team event for all church Environment Champions/ Teams with a keynote speaker from URC national network or a speaker from an outside organisation such as A Rocha or other climate supporting organisation. 7. work alongside other Synod committees such as Property and Finance in support of churches proposing or preparing submissions for grant or loan funding; support churches undertaking fund-raising events in support of proposed environmental improvements to church property for which they are responsible (proposals could include building repairs, alterations, green/clean energy installation proposal, water-saving measures.) 8. collate information from churches as it comes available 	<p>Green Apostles Team to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. monitor change and progress across all churches and report to Synod on an annual basis. 2. continue to support churches during their energy reduction and water-saving transition period 3. assist churches in celebrating eco-achievements during the previous year or going forward. 4. assist churches with media and press communications in celebration of eco-changes 5. prepare a ‘progress party’ of worship and celebration for 2030, then for 2034.