

# Greening your Parish

*Material in this survey is drawn from Module One of material supplied by EcoCongregation.  
The Wakefield Diocese thanks EcoCongregation for permission to use this material.*

## 1. How regularly during the year are environmental concerns included in worship?

- Never                       Occasional services  
e.g. Harvest Festival, Rogation Sunday,  
Creation Sunday (usually the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in  
June), St Francis' Day (4<sup>th</sup> October),  
One World Week                       Frequently

## 2. In your Church's prayer life do you:

(tick any that apply to your church)

- Praise God the creator                       Say sorry for the harm done to the environment  
 Give thanks to God for the gift of creation                       Pray for the healing of creation

## 3. Does your Church connect with God's gift of creation through worship?

(tick any that apply to your church)

- Through occasional outdoor services                       through prayer walks  
 Using natural materials within worship                       choosing organic bread and wine

## 4. Does your Church sing hymns or songs that celebrate the wonder of creation or express the calling to care for the environment?

- Regularly                       On special Sundays                       Hardly ever

## 5. Does your church:

- | Yes                      | Consider                 | Not<br>priority          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | have access to Christian environmental books and resources?                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | participate in or organise study/exploration events that include environmental issues? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | include creation/environmental issues in its teaching/preaching programme?             |

**6. Does concern for sustaining the environment feature in your work with children? (tick those that apply to your church)**

Category of activity	Sometimes	Never	Has potential to develop
Junior Church/Sunday School	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uniformed organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playgroups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
After school/holiday clubs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In schools e.g. through Assemblies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All age worship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**7. Describe your Church's work on environmental issues**

Have done	Could consider	Activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hold a debate on environmental issues and personal responsibility
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Develop creation-care material to offer in worship
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Undertake a practical environmental/conservation project
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arrange a ramble(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Organise an environmentally focussed community event (with young people from a range of churches/organisations?)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Assess how environmentally-friendly the church is and make recommendations for action

**8. Ideas you could do**

Have done	Could do	Not current priority	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Undertake an environmental Bible study
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Invite a speaker on environmental issues
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Organise/participate in a creation-care lent group

## 9. Energy- heating and light

Have done	Consider	Not priority	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monitor energy consumption regularly (monthly?) to check trends
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Switch to green electricity
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Regularly service boiler or heating appliances
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Choose appropriate sized rooms for activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Timetable meetings to minimise heating use
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heating system with timer and thermostatic controls
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Commission an energy/environmental consultation (particularly useful if considering a new heating system or refurbishment or if any boiler is older than 15 years)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fit draft excluders around windows and doors
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Install appropriate levels of insulation where appropriate
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clean windows to maximise natural light!
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Encourage building users to switch off unnecessary lights and not leave items on stand-by (e.g. photocopier)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Replace cracked or broken windowpanes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Install low-energy light bulbs where appropriate

## 10. Water

Have done	Consider	Not priority	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Install a water meter and monitor water consumption regularly (monthly?)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check water outlets and fix any drips and leaks
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Install water-saving devices e.g. dual flush toilets and low spray flow or auto turn-off taps
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Collect rainfall from down pipes for use in garden

## 11. Building maintenance

Have done	Consider	Not priority	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Choose timber from sustainable managed forests, and reclaimed materials where appropriate

## 12. Access

Have done      Are planning

Facilities for hard of hearing and visually impaired  
Access for wheelchair and push chair users  
Toilets for disabled and baby change facilities for carers

## 13. Financial management & purchasing policy

Have done      Consider      Not priority

Consider and be satisfied by the environmental policy of your bank

Have an ethical investment policy for any savings

Use environmentally-friendly cleaning materials & paint

Purchase recycled paper (to boost demand for recycled products)

Purchase fairly-traded products (e.g. tea and coffee)

Use local suppliers where possible

(so promoting a sustainable local economy and reducing transportation)

## 14. Catering

Have done      Consider      Not priority

Use crockery rather than disposable cups and plates

Use farmers' markets and other local suppliers

(to promote local economy and reduce food miles)

## 15. Waste minimisation

Have done      Consider      Not priority

Collection facilities for recycling items that church members, building users or local community can

USE (e.g. paper, spectacles, stamps, printer cartridges, shoes, foil)

Hold jumble sales to raise funds, recycle goods and promote the availability of goods at affordable prices

## 16. Church Land

### Present Potential to develop

- |                          |                          |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Native plant species and plants that attract wildlife (e.g. nest or roosting sites, trees, shrubs, lichens, fungi, hedges, wildflowers)               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other features to benefit wildlife (e.g. bird feeding station, bird nest boxes, bat boxes, piles of leaves or rotting logs for insects and hedgehogs) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Visually attractive planting/features   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Area for prayer/contemplation/outdoor worship   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Area for recreation   |

## 17. Greening personal lifestyle

- | Have done                | Consider                 | Not priority             |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Publish green tips in any church/parish magazine   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Promoting awareness through posters or information from environmental organisations (e.g. home energy audit) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Encourage recycling by providing collection points or informing people of civic facilities                   |

## 18. Community outreach/mission

- | Have done                | Consider                 | Not priority             |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Establish links with community organisations with a view to sharing your environmental ministry (e.g. schools, youth groups, local environmental bodies) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Advise building users of your environmental concerns and request that they utilise any environmental facilities  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Participate in local environmental initiatives or policy formation – your local Council may advise   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Draw on links that members have with environmental bodies e.g. Friends of the Earth, Wildlife Trust, RSPB  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Support or initiate community schemes with a positive environmental element (e.g. Clean-up, LETS, Credit Union)  |

**19. Community outreach/mission**

<b>Have done</b>	<b>Consider</b>	<b>Not priority</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Support the work of Christian development agencies (e.g. Christian Aid, Cafod, Trocaire, SCIAF or Tearfund)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Initiate or participate in activities in One World Week
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Promote fair trade
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Explore environmental issues through any linked or twinned overseas community or church
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Support the work of international conservation/ environment agencies (e.g. A Rocha, WWF, Friends of the Earth)

**Parish or group** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact details** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Tel** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please print the name of the signatory** \_\_\_\_\_

## Churches environmental check-up: Action Plan

Use this template (or your own expanded version) to summarise your church's existing good environmental practise and identify future initiatives.

<u>Activities already undertaken</u>	<u>Future priorities/initiatives</u>
Worship	
Theology	
Children's work	
Youth work	
Adult education	
Premises	
Finance	
Church land	
Personal lifestyle	
Local community	
Global concerns	