

Christians and the Environment – 10 Basic Actions.

- 1. Visit “Shrinking the Footprint” website**
www.churchcare.co.uk/shrinkingthefootprint (the CofE website giving a vast amount of practical advice, ideas, resources, case studies, funding bodies etc. for use in reducing the carbon footprint of churches).
- 2. Visit “Eco Churches”** www.ecochurches.arocha.org.uk - the new scheme organised by Arocha to replace Eco Congregations. Churches can qualify for an Eco Award scheme. Simple ideas and resources for raising awareness of environmental issues among church congregations.
- 3. Encourage a sustainable lifestyle in the congregation** – fairtrade goods, reduce waste, recycle, use a Smartmeter to check on energy use, insulation, walk or use public transport when possible, electric cars, ethical investment etc. – preaching on stewardship of the Environment (if necessary), maybe join the Eco Church scheme, use informed speakers for public lectures.
- 4. Consult the Energy Savings Trust** www.energysavingtrust.org.uk – an organisation which started as a Government initiative, but recently privatised – providing information and practical methods of saving energy, organising community projects, advice on renewable energy etc.
- 5. Carry out your own Church Energy Audit** – use guidance from STF and EST and look for areas of energy loss and waste in the church buildings, keep records of energy bills etc.
- 6. Change to an ethical Energy Supply** – some suppliers use only renewable, non-nuclear sources of energy – e.g. Good Energy, Ecotricity, Robin Hood Energy ?. (Beware of consultants offering to save energy on the basis of price only).
- 7. Support local Ethical Living groups** – transition towns, Southwell Synergy, Fairtrade groups, Community Climate Action Network etc.
- 8. Manage the Churchyard in a sustainable Way** – wildflower areas (How wild is your Churchyard – STF), Living Churchyards for community use etc.
- 9. Change to Low Energy lighting** – low energy bulbs or LEDs are becoming a legal requirement, consider dimmers or automatic switches in new installations.
- 10. Longer term Heating and Energy Projects** – when the boiler is out of date, consider biomass if possible but even a new efficient gas boiler will save approx. 15% energy, consider solar panels on the roof – financial incentives have been reduced by Government but electricity produced is still free (beware renting the roof out) – Consult EST for advice.

You may also wish to borrow one of the following videos from the Resources Library at Jubilee House (see over):

Robert Newman's History of Oil – live

The Yes Men Fix the World

The Age of Stupid

The Garden

An inconvenient Truth

Vanishing of the Bees

The 11th Hour

Permaculture in Practice

State of the planet by David Attenborough

Le Monde Selon Monsanto