

Thank you for all that you and your teams are doing as Eco Champions in Caring for Creation.

Net Zero Carbon Action Plan Approved by Diocesan Synod

On 7th October at St Margaret's, Aspley, Diocesan Synod approved our Net Zero Carbon Action Plan. This details how we as a diocese aim to get to net zero carbon. The Plan can be viewed [HERE](#). The scope of the plan is the whole of diocesan carbon emissions churches, Minster, schools, clergy housing and Jubilee House.

Synod unanimously passed the motion – “This Synod welcomes and adopts the Net Zero Carbon Action Plan. It encourages parishes, schools and others associated with the Diocese, to continue their NZC and Eco work and form their own plans consistent with the Diocesan Action Plan.”

The Action Plan is not just about technical Net Zero Carbon and financial matters but is rooted in Christian discipleship, Caring for Creation and loving our neighbour. The national church is providing grants to help dioceses with their net carbon work. We will shortly be applying for a grant with which we aim to appoint a Net Zero Carbon Project Manager and half time NZC Fundraiser.

One of the early actions in the plan is to identify the top twenty percent of carbon emitting churches, which we are in the process of doing. These churches will shortly be able to apply for free and subsidised energy audits through Parish Buying. Details will be circulated as soon as these are available.



78% Completion for Energy Footprint Tool (EFT)

The Energy Footprint Tool allows all churches around the country to enter their utility bills and find out their "carbon footprint". It is a key tool for the Church of England, the diocese and churches to be able to manage their carbon footprint. This year it is open for data entry from 1st January to 31st July for entry of energy data from 2022.

This year 78% of churches entered their energy usage into the EFT. This was a massive increase over 53% last year. Nottingham North deanery led the way with 92% completion.

Thank you to all churches that entered data, it provides accurate data for our net zero carbon planning.

The EFT will be opening next year for data entry on 1st January. Let's get our data entered early next year rather than leaving it until the last minute!



Online Eco/NZC Church Drop In

On the first day of the month at 7pm in December, February and March there will be an online Eco/NZC drop in with Robert, Diocesan environment Officer. An opportunity to share, ask questions, request advice or just chat Eco and NZC. No need to book, just click on the following Microsoft Teams link to connect [Eco/NZC Church Drop In](#)

Now Over 100 Eco Churches

The number of Eco Churches across the diocese continues to grow. There are currently 106 of which 11 have Silver and 43 Bronze awards.

Congratulations to the following churches who have received an Eco Church award since the last bulletin.



Silver Eco Churches	Deanery
St Aidan, Basford	Nottingham North
St Augustine, Sookholme	Mansfield
St Peter, Hayton	Bassetlaw & Bawtry

Bronze Eco Churches	Deanery
All Saints, Mattersey	Bassetlaw & Bawtry
Holy Trinity, Everton	Bassetlaw & Bawtry
St Helena, Austerfield	Bassetlaw & Bawtry
St John the Baptist, Misson	Bassetlaw & Bawtry
St John, Mansfield	Mansfield
St Katherine, Teversal	Newstead
St Mary, Bleasby	Newark & Southwell
St Mary, Eastwood	Newstead
St Nicholas, Bawtry	Bassetlaw & Bawtry
St Peter, Ruddington	West Bingham
St Wilfrid, North Muskham	Newark & Southwell
St Winifred, Kingston-on-Soar	West Bingham

Become an ARocha UK Eco Church

Our video explores the ways that some of our churches are caring for creation. From bug hotels to community cafes, each church is helping the planet. This autumn, we are asking every church in our diocese to become an Eco Church with A Rocha UK. [Watch here.](#)

Reducing your Church's Carbon Footprint

The Church of England has committed to becoming Net Zero Carbon by 2030.

Has your church started to reduce its' carbon footprint?

Before we get into the "heavy lifting" of solar panels and heat-pumps, significant reductions can frequently be made by simple, common sense improvements. This useful booklet from the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division provides straightforward, low cost advice;

[Practical suggestions to help parishes save energy and money](#)

Young pupils help Nottinghamshire school win prestigious green award



Children and teachers at South Wilford Endowed Church of England Primary School are celebrating after winning a green award for their amazing environmental work.

[Read the full article here](#)

Eco Training, Webinars and Courses

From Bronze to Silver Eco Church Webinar

We were privileged to have a webinar run specially for us by **ARocha** itself. This focussed on how churches can progress from Bronze to Silver and even beyond to Gold. The webinar can be watched on the Learning Hub - [From Bronze to Silver Eco Church](#)

The central Church of England have developed some excellent free webinars covering many aspects of Caring for Creation and getting to Net Carbon Zero. These include;

- Measuring your church's carbon footprint with the Energy Footprint Tool (EFT)
- Creating a Net Zero Carbon Action Plan
- Becoming a Net Zero Carbon Church
- Environmental Fundraising
- Church Solar Panels
- Church Heating



[Webinars on getting to net zero carbon](#)

Upcoming Key Dates

30th November – 12th December 2023 UN Climate Change Conference 2022 ([UNFCCC COP 28](#)), UAE, Dubai.

23rd March 2024 8.30pm – 9.30pm **Earth Hour** is organised by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). People and organisations all over the world switch off their lights for one hour to make a public statement of their concern to challenge those ways our lifestyles and behaviour threaten the wellbeing of God's earth.

8th – 16th June 2024 **Churches Count on Nature** is a joint initiative promoted by Caring for God's Acre, A Rocha UK, the Church of England and the Church in Wales. During a week in June, it brings local people together to discover the wildlife in their local church yard, recording the species they find, combining their results with others which will be collated on a nationwide database of wildlife in the UK.

5th June 2024 **World Environment Day** is the United Nations day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment.

2nd June 2024 **Environment Sunday** is on the Sunday nearest to World Environment Day. Therefore this year it is on Sunday 2nd June.

8th June – 16th June 2024 **Great Big Green Week** encourages communities to take action to tackle climate change and protect green spaces, and get others to be involved too.

Environment bulletin



From the Church of England Environment Programme

A new-look Church of England Environment Bulletin is out - it's packed full of the latest news from around the country, celebrating churches and schools making a difference in their communities through eco projects.

Read the [October Environment Bulletin](#).

Sign up here for the monthly newsletter:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/sign-our-environment-newsletter>

Diocesan Website

There is a wealth of information about [Caring for Creation](#) on our Diocesan website. Do regularly look at it for updates.

Or contact Robert Cleave, DEO, at robert.cleave@southwell.anglican.org

