

District Environment Policy

We are mindful of Jesus' words (Luke 12:54):

You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

In this present time, we recognise that we do not fulfil the sense of Psalm 104 (v31):

*The glory of GOD—let it last forever!
Let GOD enjoy his creation!*

We should address the excesses highlighted by the prophet Micah (6:7):

*Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?*

And seek to live lightly (Micah 6.8):

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*

This environmental policy provides a framework for the District to *walk humbly and do justice*, guided by the [Eco Church](#) questioning and the [Steps](#) towards the Net Zero Carbon of [Action for Hope](#). The District invites Circuits, Churches and members of our communities also to follow these steps. As, for example, with safeguarding, equality, diversity and inclusion, we consider creation care to be fundamental to our Way of Life, and thus be embedded within the dealings of our worship, meetings and councils; we treasure the value of 'twos and threes' for enabling this mission. The District shall also employ its mechanisms of guidance, resources and grants to aid circuits and churches in these steps.

Action for Hope step 1: Assess where you are.

Bases of self-assessment of carbon emissions are provided by [Climate Stewards](#) for [individuals](#) and [churches](#). These also provide a means for ethically offsetting carbon emissions.

A District has particular responsibilities to its own buildings, offices and land. In our case this is predominantly at the manse. We are making an assessment of the manse and garden using the Eco Church guidance; this has included a current Energy Performance Certificate (D). This assessment will inform future modifications.

Action for Hope step 2: Green your energy.

The District will develop proposals for the infrastructure of the District manse to its improve energy efficiency and reduce its carbon footprint.

The District will also provide guidance to aid circuits and churches in achieving the same goals. District grants, which are available to share the costs of projects with churches and circuits, have an emphasis on mission and so are well suited to Eco Church principles.

Action for Hope step 3: Travel Smart.

The District seeks to install an electric charging point at the District manse at an appropriate time. It will also provide guidance to aid Circuits to reduce the carbon footprint of staff travel.

The planning of District meetings and events will continue the use of on-line meetings to enable face-to-face interactions without the need to travel. When it is necessary to meet in person the choice of locations and timings will be influenced by the options for public transport, and guidance will continue to be provided for travel to District events.

Action for Hope step 4: Go for Gold.

The Southampton District greatly values the Eco Church surveys as a means of stimulating individuals and communities along pathways that *walk humbly* and *do justice*. Accordingly it commits to the Action for Hope targets:

1. *To have 50% of its churches registered with Eco Church by 2026.*
2. *To have 50% of its churches registered with Eco Church having achieved a bronze award by 2026.*
3. *To have 20% of its churches registered with Eco Church having achieved a silver award by 2026.*

Southampton District commits to attaining a Bronze Eco District award level in 2023, and targets a Silver level in 2026.

The District will provide resources, guidance and training to Circuits and Churches for their Eco church journeys

Action for Hope step 5: Live light

The District recognises that the lifestyles of its communities are a substantial part of the overall carbon footprint of the church. It has therefore sought to provide appropriate guidance and training in conjunction with the Learning and Training Network.

In its own events it will promote the three 'Rs' (Reduce, reuse, recycle) for materials and LOAF (Local, organically grown, animal friendly, fairly traded) for foodstuffs.)

Action for Hope step 6: Celebrate together

Creation Care can evoke love, passion and commitment, all of which enable these other steps on the road of Action for Hope. The District will therefore enable sharing events, indoors and outdoors, as sources inspiration. It will also promote intergenerational events such as Forest Churches.

Possibilities for funding

Information about District grants is available on the [District website](#).

District Environmental Policy Appendix: Resources for implementation

Contact lines

In the first instance please contact ecodistrict@sdmc.org.uk
See also: <https://www.sdmc.org.uk/resources/eco-church/>

Creation care

Planetwise, Dave Bookless, Inter-varsity Press, 2008
Saying Yes to Life, Ruth Valerio, SPCK, 2020.
Saving Us, Katharine Hayhoe, One Signal Publishers, 2021.
'A Christian Guide to Environmental Issues, 2nd edition, Martin J. Hodson and Margot R. Hodson, The Bible Reading Fellowship, 2021.
Blue Planet, Blue God, Meric Srokosz and Rebecca S. Watson, SCM Press, 2017
There is no Planet B, Mike Berners-Lee, Cambridge University Press, 2019.
The Climate Book, Created by Greta Thunberg, Allen Lane, 2022.
A Bigger Picture, Vanesa Nakate, One Boat, 2021.
The New Climate War, Michael E. Mann, Scribe, 2021

A Study Guide on *Laudato Si* -

<https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/26268/190849/version/9/Laudato%20Si%20study%20guide-%20final.pdf>

Global Weirding by Kathryn Hayhoe:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi6RkdaEggRVKi3AzidF4ow>

Christian Aid Collective - magazine for young people. Edition 4 is The Climate Edition

https://issuu.com/christianaidcollective/docs/13-421-j1582-dnt-issue4-book-aw_iss

Our Prophetic Voice Towards Climate justice:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/get-involved/our-prophetic-journey-towards-climate-justice>

Go bear fruit – fruit that will last, World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, 14th World Assembly: Workshops: <http://wfmucw.org/14th-world-assembly-workshops>

Action for Hope

The initial steps:

https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/26214/action_for_hope_download.pdf

An approach:

<https://www.wermethodistcircuit.org.uk/eco-circuit/action-for-hope.html>

and: <https://www.youtube.com/@stewardingpreciousearth2157>

Action for Hope step 1: Assess where you are.

Getting your building down to Net Zero: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/property/netzero/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCF7-SFZWpg&t=1s>

Action for Hope step 2: Green your energy.

Lifestyle and maintenance: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=64qW4lv_a7I&t=39s
Panels and pumps: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=212i95yz3xw&t=34s>

Action for Hope step 3: Travel Smart.

Guidelines on greenhouse gas emissions for various Transport types, Brian Shorter, Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC):
https://www.winacc.org.uk/downloads/STAP/Shorter_Transport%20Emissions%20Report_110328.pdf

Climate Stewards Carbon Calculators: <https://www.climatestewards.org/carbon-calculators/>

Action for Hope step 4: Go for Gold.

A Rocha UK: <https://arocha.org.uk>
Eco Church: <https://arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/eco-church/>
How to become an Eco Church: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6uRyuSatEI&t=61s>

Action for Hope step 5: Live light

Just Living, Ruth Valerio, Hodder and Stoughton, 2016
'L' is for Lifestyle, Ruth Valerio, Intervarsity Press, 2019
Dethroning Mammon, Justin Welby, Bloomsbury, 2016
Doughnut Economics, Kate Rayworth, Random House, 2017
How Bad are Bananas – The carbon footprint of everything, 2nd edition, Mike Berners-Lee, Profile Books, 2020.

Action for Hope step 6: Celebrate together

Wild Christian: <https://arocha.org.uk/wild-christian/>
Greening the church, Forest Church and living faith in the time of climate crises:
<https://www.crconline.org.uk/resources/articles/greening-church-forest-church-and-living-faith-time-climate-crises>

Funding possibilities

District advance Fund: *Priority will be given to Ministry and Mission schemes over Property Projects.*
<https://www.sdmc.org.uk/resources/documents-and-downloads/>

Property grants in Methodism: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/property/property-support/property-grants/>

Benefecat Trust: <https://benefacttrust.co.uk/which-grant-is-for-me/methodist-grants/>