

## 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.

### Lament, Hope and Wisdom

Churches and Circuits are asked to timetable annual Climate Sunday services to contemplate and pray about our shared environmental crisis.

### 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.

Circuits should gather from churches the following information on an annual basis:

Energy (kWh), and costs/incomes (£) relating to:

Direct fossil fuel consumption (Gas, oil etc); Electricity consumption; Energy generation.

Conversion of these readings into their carbon footprints (tons CO<sub>2</sub>e); the use of the <https://360carbon.org/en-gb/> platform from Climate Stewards is recommended.

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 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.

Churches are encouraged to follow energy consumption and generation on a monthly or quarterly basis to aid consideration of a pathway to Net Zero.

Circuits are asked to collate this data from churches to aid their Circuit strategy.

**Action for Hope step 3: Travel Smart.**

The District seeks to install an electric charging point at the District manse and its regular meeting venues at appropriate times. The District 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.

**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](mailto: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*, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](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, 14<sup>th</sup> 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](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](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](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/>