

ECO CHURCH

AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



Eco District status will be given to your District when it has achieved and can demonstrate evidence of the following:

Please provide dates where applicable and copies of materials to support the application.

<p>1. Registered its intent to become an Eco District. <i>November 2019</i></p>	<p>A Rocha UK Office Use: Y / N</p>
<p>2. Commissioned an individual or group to coordinate progress within the District</p>	<p>Name and contact details for individual or group and short description of groups purpose. <i>Eco District Champion: John Evans Convenor of the Eco District Steering Group of the Southampton District of the Methodist Church. The purpose of the group in to monitor and promote relevant activities and policies within the District.</i></p>
<p>3. Written an environmental policy</p>	<p>Attach copy or provide web link to agreed policy.ⁱ <i>The Environmental Policy was agreed by the District Policy Committee in March 2023 and endorsed by the District Synod in April 2023. It can be found on: https://www.sdmc.org.uk/resources/eco-church/</i></p>
<p>4. Gained the appropriate levels of local church registrations and Awards for Eco Church</p>	<p>Provide details in the separate application form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> How many churches are there in your District? <i>As of June 2023 ~139 Methodist Churches and 17 Local Ecumenical Projects.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> How many of these churches are registered with Eco Church? <i>41</i> <input type="checkbox"/> How many churches are at a Bronze award? <i>14 plus</i> <input type="checkbox"/> How many churches are at a Silver award? <i>3 plus</i> <input type="checkbox"/> How many churches are at a Gold award? <i>2</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Please also send a file of all your registered churches with Church name, town and postcode and indicate which Eco Church award achieved.

<p>5. Achieved the relevant Eco Church Award level 'In relation to its District Office. In the Buildings category (where appropriate) and Land (where appropriate).ⁱⁱ</p>	<p>Address of District Office, date when Bronze Award achieved and additional comments:</p> <p><i>The District office is virtual. The office of the Chair of District is within the Manse. The manse has a current EPC of D, and steps needed for augmentation of this are under discussion.</i></p>
<p>6. Embedded environmental issues in ongoing training. Have sought to ensure that environmental issues are embedded within the curricula of ongoing presbyterial and local preacher education and support.ⁱⁱⁱ</p>	<p>Provide evidence (dates & brief details). For example, by ensuring that local preachers have access to materials to support theological reflection on our care for God's creation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Presentation to Synod (ministerial and lay) in September 2019 leading to decision to register as an Eco District</i> b) <i>Presentations by Helen Stephens and Andy Atkins to the District Minister's Conference in 2021.</i> c) <i>Online introduction to Eco Church and Eco District lead by the Chair and Eco District Champion, December 2021. Published on YouTube with the launch of Eco District activities in January 2022:</i> <p>There are 5 videos available there:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) Introductory devotions by Andrew and an outline of Eco Church https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RkQzPXTQgGI&t=8s e) Becoming an Eco Church – Paul Yarrien and Nick Langham https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfGGEBX4zW0 f) Being an Eco Church – Jo Crocker https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZbUGgKd5obI g) Helping Eco Churches – Diane Kingston https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1mwVb6L3BI&t=24s h) An open discussion - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hz8_ZzBhRvo i) Synod April 2023: Keynote address by Andy Lester followed by presentation of the Environmental Policy by the Eco District champion. j) Report to Synod September 2023 including new bronze award church (Trinity, Totton) and particular celebration of award of a gold to Mortimer Church k) Series of on-line seminars (Creation Monday)_is for organised for 2023-24 to cover Eco Church and Action for hope themes. Speakers are to_be: Ian Souter, Bristol District champion; Adrian Frost, Climate Stewards; Margot Hodson, John Ray Initiative; Jo Crocker, Winchester Action on Climate Change; Holly Adams, Methodist Evangelism and Growth, Ho Lim, Stratford upon Avon MC. <i>(with the Learning Network)</i>
<p>7. Managed District investments ethically with due consideration to the environmental implications / opportunities of such investments, taking into account the climate change investment policy of the</p>	<p>The District's funds are invested via the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes/ Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church. The ethics policies of these organisations apply:</p> <p>eg https://www.cfbmethodistchurch.org.uk/ethics/</p>

<p>Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and the resources available within the Your Faith Your Finance project.</p>	
<p>8. Worked with other Districts and / or faith groups 'to encourage greater environmental action, including promoting Eco Church as a helpful tool'.</p>	<p>Eco Church has been promoted through links with A Rocha UK. The District champion has assisted with advice as a volunteer, and assessor for Gold Award churches. This has included a webinar for churches in Wales and the series 'Praying for the Planet' developed by Bramhall Methodist Church and open to all: https://www.bramhallmethodists.org.uk/pfop . Cooperation with other Districts in the South West region to develop approaches for Eco Church. Presentation for SW Region (Organised by Caroline Pomeroy - ecumenical) in Bath, June 15, 2018. Joined the connexional Eco District champions network. Ongoing e-mail discussions with A Rocha concerning the criteria for the award levels of Eco Circuit and Eco District.</p>
<p>9. Established the habit of recording and celebrating individual environmental initiatives.</p>	<p>Eco District news and events are presented on the District website: https://www.sdmc.org.uk/resources/eco-church/</p> <p>Video materials are available on: https://www.youtube.com/@southamptondistrictmethodi1665 These include 5 videos on the Eco Meeting playlist.</p> <p>Also: Stewarding precious Earth: https://www.youtube.com/@stewardingpreciousearth2157 Channel on topics related to Eco Church and Action for Hope.</p>

ⁱ Policy. That has been agreed by Synod. Evidence can be in the form of a signed policy or an e-mail from Synod acknowledging and supporting the policy. The policy should include, where appropriate, points on travel, the environmental performance of Manses (re: Methodist Church standing order guidelines on Energy Performance Certificates) and a commitment to reducing carbon emissions.

ⁱⁱ If a District office is based in a Methodist Church, it is expected that this Church would have achieved a Bronze Eco Church award. In addition to help us review your application please go through the Building questions that pertain to the operational aspects of the Circuit office to share the eco initiatives that take place within an office environment. Do consider sharing if there are other areas that you may be able to influence e.g. helping the church measure their carbon footprint and set targets etc. As well as things you have been able to do within your office environment such as switching to all LED bulbs in the circuit office, using recycled paper, and recycled toilet paper and looking to measure your carbon footprint etc. We are generally seeking to understand about awareness and intentionality of being more sustainable within your circuit office setting or how the admin staff, wherever they are based, operate within the ethos of the Eco Church survey (seeking to be environmentally aware and sustainable to express our care for Gods world).

ⁱⁱⁱ For example through the [Learning Network Regions](#). There are different options for local preachers to have access to materials to support theological reflection on our care for God's creation. See the [Methodist Church Worship: Leading & Preaching](#) course, [Singing the Faith Plus](#) resources, and Eco Church "[Worship and Teaching](#)" resources.