

Methodist Eco Community Network webinar

Creation Matters

Newsletter of the Southampton Eco District

Methodist Church
Eco Community



Eco Community Network Webinars

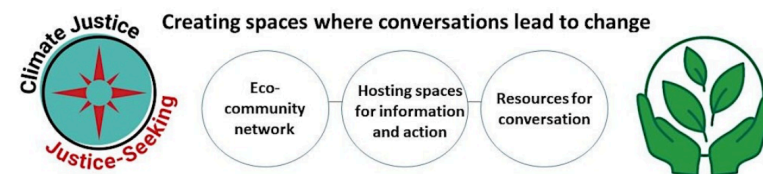
Wednesdays from 7 pm

September 17

January 21

April 22

June 8



The Connexionally organised webinars will replace our District ones the videos of which will remain on the District website (sdmc.org.uk). Webinars can be booked by anyone using Eventbrite; videos of the Network webinars on the [Eco Community Network](#) page on the Connexional website. The topic on September 17 is to be Green worship.

Our gas boilers have failed!!!

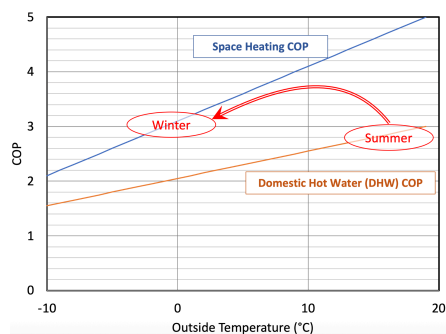
A hybrid approach?

Such messages are not that uncommon. Presently a plan is being developed to provide energy audits to Circuits what will provide the framework of a 5-year carbon plan for churches and manses. The superintendent ministers have approved the approach in principle, and the aim is to have more detailed plans template before the District Policy Committee at the start of 2026. The core of the funding will be an Action for Hope grant; we are closing in on eligibility having gained an Eco District Bronze award from A Rocha UK last year (one of 4 Districts to achieve this so far).

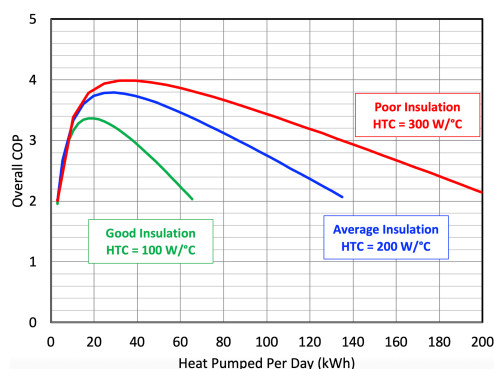
Alternatives to like-for-like replacements require careful consideration, and I am happy to discuss this. For most churches, that bulk of energy utilised is for space heating in the winter, and currently the cost of gas per kWh is significantly less than electricity. Three ways to address this are **improved insulation**, improving the efficiency of energy delivery by a **heat pump** to well over 100%, and by directed heating of people and furnishing for shortened time periods by using **infrared heating**.

Installation of heat pumps is mostly commonly of the air source type. In effective heat from the external air is squeezed into a heat sink inside a building via a refrigeration system in reverse. Often the heat sink is a large water tank which serves a radiator system for space heating, and also the provision of hot water. Cost of installation may be in the region of £10k or so, and finding competent installers can be challenging. An alternative is an air-to-air heat delivery to spaces and is an air conditioning system in reverse. They can be used as air conditioning units to mitigate very hot ambient temperatures, often on hot sunny days when solar panels are at their most productive. These are much easier to install, do not need to require a water tank, and less costly.

Infrared heaters deliver energy at the speed of light, literally. They drastically reduce warm up times and the IR light is absorbed by the regions illuminated by their sources, much the opposite to an air-air space heater. A hybrid approach could use the heat pump to provide a workable ambient temperature, and the infrared source rapid tuning for events.



Estimated energy efficiency
of air-to-air heat pumps



Pendant infrared heaters at
St Peter and St Paul,
Fareham

Land and nature

Commitment

Our church recognises the significant contribution churches can make to the UK's target of 30% of land protected for nature by 2030. We manage our land and/or work in partnership with other organisations / community groups to manage land for nature.
Yes / No

In each of the categories of the 2025 EcoChurch survey, there is a question asking each church to make a commitment, and the one for Land and Nature is given here. This has been a challenge to many Methodist churches, and one church that has risen to this challenge is St John's in Settle, North. Yorkshire.

When their church was rebuilt the change in location resulted in a yard becoming a barren, enclosed space sporting a storage shed. (Left)



This has been transformed into a vibrant, but friendly outdoor space providing a Quiet Garden for all. And being a focus of community engagement,





London atmospheric emissions

Creation Matters is the newsletter of the Southampton

Eco District group:

Eco District pages are to be found from the Ministries tab of:

<https://www.sdmc.org.uk/>

Facebook:

[southampton.ecodistrict](https://www.facebook.com/southampton.ecodistrict)

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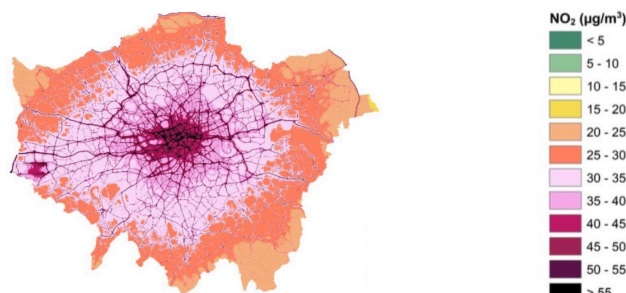
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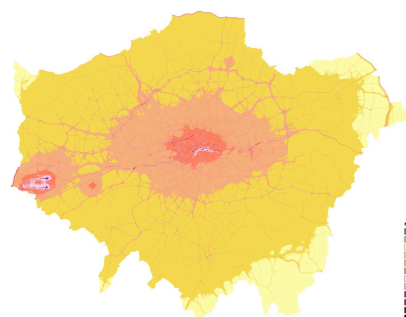
How are we doing?

Saving London

An unwanted consequence of burning fossil fuels for energy is that it does not just form water and CO₂. Side reactions give carbon particulates and reactive nitrogen oxides. In 2016 the emissions of NO₂ in central London were estimated as 22500 tonnes, and 51% of all emission of this acid gas. The World Health Organisation reduced its safe limit for atmospheric NO₂ to 10 µg/m³; in 2013 all Londoners lived with over double that, some over five time:

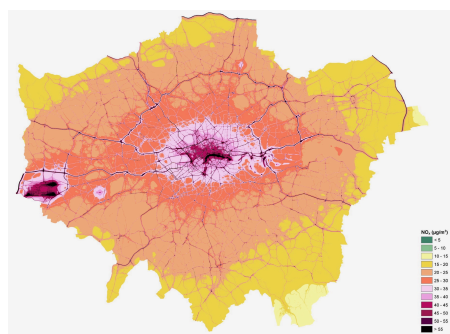


The measures introduced to reduce emissions within Greater London have had a considerable effect. The estimated road traffic emissions of NO₂ for 2025 are under 7000 tons.



The highest contributor currently will be the generation of industrial and commercial heat and power. So most of Greater London will have ambient NO₂

levels 50-100% above the WHO safe limit. Total NO_x emissions though include nitric oxide, a primary product from combustion. This shows important sources, like the Heathrow runways.



John Evans, Eco District champion