

Actions

The Diocesan Environmental Adviser, working as appropriate with DBF staff, DBF committees and local worshipping communities will promote the reduction of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) footprint and environmental impact by:

- promoting renewable energy schemes, to conserve energy and to avoid wasting resources.
- encouraging PCCs and individuals to reduce their GHG footprint and offset all remaining emissions through a sound and appropriate scheme.
- promoting the implementation of a waste management hierarchy of prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling, energy recovery and safe disposal.
- encouraging the environmental management of the diocese's property and glebe portfolio, including working with tenant farmers to reduce any negative impact of their business activities.

This document shall become the written environmental policy for Gloucester Diocese having been agreed by Diocesan Synod.

An annual update and report will be provided to diocesan synod.

At least every five years, these aims and actions will be reviewed, according to national and international information and standards, based on the best available scientific evidence.

Environmental Policy

Adopted and Updated at Diocesan Synod,
February 2020, minor updates Feb 2021

In the Diocese of Gloucester we affirm that:

- caring for God's creation is a Biblical requirement, a gospel imperative, and central to Christian mission.
- the Fifth Mark of Mission commits us: "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the Earth".
- the Engagement priority of our diocesan LIFE vision includes a commitment to 'being advocates for human flourishing, through initiatives which combat injustice, environmental destruction, exclusion and isolation'.
- the Diocese of Gloucester has been registered with A Rocha since February 2018 (Appendix 1 shows our registration certificate), was awarded a bronze "Eco Diocese" award, in February 2021 and is committed to working toward silver by December 2023.

We recognise that we are facing a climate and ecological emergency which is a crisis for the whole of God's creation.

In pursuit of these commitments we will:

- actively participate in and exceed the Church of England's (CofE's) national environmental campaign which aims to reduce the CofE's emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases (GHGs) based on 2006 data by 42% at 2020 and 80% at 2050, by bringing forward the date to 2030 and to take other measures in order to be carbon neutral, also by 2030.
- actively encourage local worshipping communities, deaneries and benefices, and commit the Diocesan Board of Finance, to participate in the national Eco Church awards, and to see environmental action as a key part of their missional engagement with the wider community.¹
- encourage and support PCCs, chaplaincies, fresh expressions, church schools and individuals that are already engaged in caring for creation, most notably through organizing regular meetings of the Gloucestershire Churches Environmental Justice Network (part of Churches Together in Gloucestershire).
- comply with all applicable statutory requirements and seek to match our performance to the highest relevant non-mandatory standards.
- manage diocesan investments ethically (in line with the ethical policies of the Church of England national investing bodies) being guided on climate change by the recommendations of the Ethical Investment Advisory Group.
- work with our church schools in implementing this policy.
- work with the group of South West Dioceses to encourage greater environmental action, including promoting Eco Church as a helpful tool.

¹ Bronze Eco Diocese: 10% of local churches registered; 5% of local churches awarded Silver Eco Diocese: 20% of local churches registered; 10% of local churches awarded Gold Eco Diocese: 30% of local churches registered; 20% of local churches awarded

Actions

Within the context of the work of LIFE priority group EI, the Diocesan Environmental Adviser will:

- coordinate progress towards the Eco Diocese Award, reporting to the Director of Mission and Ministry. This will include working with diocesan colleagues towards the relevant Eco Church Award level in relation to diocesan and bishop's offices around College Green.
- work with the diocesan communications team to develop and implement a communications plan
- actively encourage PCCs to turn their churchyards into wildlife gardens.
- promote the recording and celebrating of individual environmental initiatives.
- work with the Director of Mission and Ministry to embed environmental concerns across the diocesan ministerial development programme.
- actively work with church schools under the guidance of the Education Department to promote 'eco-schools'.