



▶ Questions

- Why should Christians be concerned about the environment and about climate change?
- Do you know of any places and situations, either close to home or abroad, that have been affected by climate change?
- In which ways could you reduce your carbon footprint – in your home, shopping, travelling?
- Does your congregation include environmental topics in its worship and teaching, and in its daily life?
- Do you know of initiatives in your local community that are engaged in tackling climate change? Could you get involved?
- What is the science of climate change and how can I be sure that the scientists are right?
- What are the impacts to climate change on Scotland and other parts of the world?
- How can I work out my contribution to climate change?
- I have already done the basics - what more can I do?

Ideas and resources to start you off in any of these areas can be found in the Eco-Congregation modules, which you can download at:

www.ecocongregationscotland.org or order at the address below.

The Project is based in the Church and Society Council but is jointly supported by the Ministries Council, World Mission Council and Mission and Discipleship Council of the Church of Scotland.

▶ Keep in Touch

For questions and further information on how to become an eco-congregation, how to measure your carbon footprint or getting involved in other ways, please see the website or contact us at the address below.

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The Church of Scotland
Church and Society Council

Responding to Climate Change project

Climate Change



Discussion Points

Climate Change

The Responding to Climate Change Project aims to provide answers and resources to these and related topics through its work in three main areas:

- To work with the Councils of the Church to help them identify and address the impacts of climate change. This includes both practical issues such as reducing the carbon footprint of the church's own estate; raising awareness of Ministers, Presbyteries and staff; and working with partners in countries overseas through the World Mission Council to highlight the global consequences of our emissions.
- To support Eco-Congregation Scotland and help the Programme respond effectively to climate change. The ecumenical Eco-Congregation Scotland Programme now includes over 270 congregations across Scotland, from many different denominations. Eco-Congregation Scotland now form one of the largest networks of voluntary environmental groups in Scotland. More information can be found at:
www.ecocongregationscotland.org
ecocongregationscotland.blogspot.com
- To contribute to the wider debate in Scotland, for example through our work with the Stop Climate Chaos Scotland coalition, which includes approximately 60 Scottish organisations who work on climate change issues. The Church welcomes the Climate Change (Scotland) Bill and is participating in the national debate to ensure that the commitment to an 80% reduction in greenhouse gases is taken forward across Scotland. For further details please see
www.stopclimatechaosscotland.org



Climate change represents a failure in our stewardship of God's creation

In 2009, The General Assembly instructed Presbyteries, in association with the Church and Society Council, to produce plans for congregations in the Presbytery to measure the energy consumption and the carbon footprint of their buildings and commit to a year on year reduction of 5% in their carbon footprint, to which many congregations and Presbyteries have since responded very positively.

The Church of Scotland is concerned that climate change poses a serious and immediate threat to people everywhere, particularly to the poor of the earth; and that climate change represents a failure in our stewardship of God's creation. We accept the need to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases urgently to avoid dangerous and irreversible climate change; and to promote a more equitable and sustainable use of energy.