

Eco-congregation

Award Application Form



This form may be used to apply for the Eco-congregation Award.

On receipt of the completed form, arrangements will be made to visit the church and assess it for an Award.

If possible, it is also helpful to put together evidence of your activities such as orders of service, church magazine pieces, photographs, posters, notes/minutes of meetings, reflections from members, press articles etc. You may wish to send in one or two of these items with the application form. Alternatively, these could be made available to the assessors on the assessment day.

If you have any queries about applying for the award, please get in touch with one of the Eco-congregation Co-ordinators, who will be happy to advise you.

Name, denomination and location of Church:

.....

Name of Eco-Congregation Contact Person

Address

Tel. Email

On completion of your application please return this form to:

Eco-congregation, c/o Groundworks Sheffield
The Innovation Centre, 217 Portobello, Sheffield, S1 4DP
or email to: ecocongregation@arocha.org

The Eco-congregation Award is given to churches that have:

- > Worked through the churches environmental check-up
- > Helped the whole congregation to make the link between their Christian faith and environmental concerns (*growing in faith and understanding*)
- > Taken practical action in the church and/or church grounds (*putting God's house in green order*)
- > Had a positive impact on and/or worked with their local or wider community (*changing lives: changing communities*)

Churches must have undertaken one reasonably substantive piece of work or a number of smaller projects in each area. When there is overlap, for example a church involving the local community in improvements to their grounds, the church will be given credit for taking action in both areas.

For their first Award, churches may submit information on projects undertaken both prior to and since registering with Eco-congregation.

The Eco-congregation Process

It is not necessary that a church has used the Eco-congregation modules - the Award recognises appropriate activities initiated or inspired by any source.

However, it is important that the church is able to show that their environmental concern and activity is sustainable and ongoing. For this reason, the award is renewable every 3 years. The suggestions below are **not** absolute criteria for gaining the award, but credit could be given to a church that has:

- > Involved a number of people from across the church community in working through Module 1 and in undertaking particular initiatives
- > Formed links with/involved others in the local area
- > Sought and gained support (time/money/advice) from another organisation
- > Reviewed and monitored progress regularly

Important Note

Eco-congregation aims to offer something to every church, regardless of size, location, denomination or circumstances. Hence, each church will be assessed according to its own circumstances and potential.

Eco-congregation Award criteria

- 1. Made the link between the Christian faith and our environmental concerns
(*growing in faith and understanding, e.g. modules 2 – 6*)**

List the activity(ies) undertaken in this area and try to assess whether they have helped the congregation understand environmental care as part of Christian discipleship:

Future plans:

Eco-congregation Award criteria

2. Taken practical action in the church and/or church grounds (*putting God's house in green order, e.g. modules 7 – 9*)

List the activities undertaken in this area and assess

- What has been achieved
- How many people were/are involved
- If the projects are ongoing (and if so, how they are managed)
- Any impact on the church, community or wider environment

Future plans:

Eco-congregation Award criteria

3. Had a positive impact on and/or worked with their local or the global community (*changing lives: changing communities e.g. modules 10 – 12*)

List the activities undertaken in this area and assess their impact on the local/global community.

For example, projects might include:

- Sharing information through local press and publicity, information on the church website
- Working in partnership with community groups (e.g. local authority, youth group, uniformed organisation, school, residential homes)
- Working towards a more sustainable global community e.g. supporting fair trade, a Christian environment/development agency or a twinning initiative

Future plans: