

# Eco-congregation



## Award Application Form

If possible please complete the form electronically using Word and submit it via email. This makes the whole process much easier for the assessors. However we understand that not everyone has access to the internet so we do accept postal applications. On receipt of the completed form, the Ecocongregation Coordinator will arrange for two assessors to visit the church to assess it for an Award.

It is helpful to the assessors to see 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. Please do not go to great efforts to produce this specially for the assessment. We are only looking for things which you have produced anyway.

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

Name, denomination and address of Church:

.....  
.....

Tel. .... Email .....

Name and address of Eco-Congregation Contact Person

.....  
.....

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](mailto: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

☞ **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:

Church input	Assessor's comment

Future plans:


# Eco-congregation Award criteria

**✎ 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

Church input	Assessor’s comment

Future plans:


## Eco-congregation Award criteria

- ✓ 🗣️ **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

Church input	Assessor's comment

Future plans:


**For assessors use only**

Name of Assessors:  
Church Environmental  
.....

Date: .....

**Church Profile**

**Background**

Describe the setting of the church (e.g. suburban, inner city, rural, town/city centre):  
.....

What is the size of the congregation? .....

**Eco-congregation History**

Date of Registration .....

Which award is the church applying for? 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Is this a reapplication following a previously unsuccessful application? YES/NO

**Assessing the sustainability of the programme:**

**Involvement of people**

How many people were involved in compiling the check-up? .....

Does the church have a green team which meet regularly? YES/NO

If YES, how many people are regularly involved? .....

Which groups within the church (or outside the church) do they represent?  
.....  
.....

What is the approximate number of meetings held per year? .....

**Monitoring and feedback**

Have targets been set? YES/NO

Do you regularly measure, record and review progress?  
(e.g. notes/minutes taken at meetings) YES/NO

Is the environmental work ongoing? YES/NO

## Communication

Is there a mechanism for informing the whole congregation about work planned or undertaken? (e.g. notice board, church magazine) **YES/NO**

Details:.....

Have any steps been taken to publicise the environmental work of the church to the wider community? (e.g. articles in the local or community newspaper) **YES/NO**

Details:.....

## Award Status

### Mindful of:

- the capacity of the church
- the process that they have adopted
- the context of their immediate environment
- the activities/initiatives that they have undertaken with a spiritual, practical and community dimension

**Do you consider that the church has met the criteria for the Eco-congregation Award?**

**YES/NO**

### If YES

List any initiatives/activities that merit particular **commendation**, for inclusion in the award letter

List any **recommendations** for future work, for inclusion in the award letter:

### If NO

Make **recommendations for further action** that will enable the church to fulfil the Award criteria, for discussion with the church: