

Hold a **LOAF** meal to get people thinking about food issues: **LOAF** stands for **L**ocally produced, **O**rganically grown, **A**nimal friendly, **F**airly traded. Visit: [www.christian-ecology.org.uk/loaf](http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk/loaf)

The **CEL website** has plenty of ideas to help you:

- Regular 'Green Spot' articles for you to use and adapt for your church magazine.
- Ideas for church seasons such as Lent and Harvest.
- Point your minister to 'Green Pointers for Preachers'.

#### Keep in touch:

- Contact Judith Allinson and sign up for CEL's twice monthly e-news: [webeditor@christian-ecology.org.uk](mailto:webeditor@christian-ecology.org.uk)
- Contact David Hughes and sign up for Eco-congregation's email newsletter: [ecocongregation@arocha.org](mailto:ecocongregation@arocha.org)

#### Other Christian organisations which focus on the care of earth include:

**A Rocha** - focusing on science and research, practical conservation and environmental education: [www.arocha.org](http://www.arocha.org)

**Operation Noah** – focusing exclusively on climate change: [www.operationnoah.org](http://www.operationnoah.org)

## How to become an Eco-congregation

The Eco-congregation Award recognises and encourages churches who are taking care of creation seriously.



Eco-congregation provides an environmental toolkit to enable churches to become 'greener' in such areas as worship, theology, children and youth work, church premises and land, ethical finance, lifestyle and community and global outreach. Each section has a module giving ideas and resources, activities and inspiration to develop and grow as an Eco-congregation.

To become an Eco-congregation, form a small group at your church and work through the full check-up form which is downloadable from [www.ew.ecocongregation.org](http://www.ew.ecocongregation.org) or [www.ecocongregation.org/scotland](http://www.ecocongregation.org/scotland)

Prioritise your next steps. Then send in your registration form and choose from the environmental toolkit what modules would be most helpful to your church.

## Living for a future

Wherever we are in life, we can only reach the destination if we travel together. If you would like to be part of this journey, join CEL.

# Eco-Check-up for Churches



## How eco-friendly is your church?

You may be surprised how much you are already doing with your congregation, church building and church office. Inside this leaflet are some questions to give you an idea of what is involved in an environmental check-up. The questions are selected from Module One of Eco-congregation's environmental toolkit for churches. On the back is information on how to become an Eco-congregation and some ideas on raising environmental awareness in your church.

## Join Christian Ecology Link

Send £18 standard (low income £10), £28 joint/family/corporate, or a donation for church membership (recommended amount £25) to: CEL, FREEPOST SE 8672, 9 Nuthatch Drive, Reading RG6 5ZZ.

Cheques payable to CEL.



**ChristianEcologyLink**

[www.christian-ecology.org.uk](http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk)

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London E4 9NX. Tel: 0845 459 8460  
[info@christian-ecology.org.uk](mailto:info@christian-ecology.org.uk)

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**ChristianEcologyLink**

## Environmental Check-Up

Chelmsford Cathedral, pictured on the front of this leaflet, was the first Eco-congregation in the UK. Whether you worship in a cathedral or a small chapel use these questions to find ways to make your church more eco-friendly.

1. How regularly during the year are environmental concerns included in worship?

- never
- occasionally
- only at special services e.g. harvest
- frequently

2. Does your church include creation/environmental issues in its teaching, studying or preaching programme?

yes      no

3. Has your church involved young people in auditing and improving the environmental management of the premises?

yes      no

4. Has your church invited a speaker on environmental issues?

yes      no

5. Have you insulated the church buildings wherever possible?

yes      no

6. Do you choose appropriate size rooms wherever possible?

yes      no

7. Do you timetable meetings to minimise heating use?

yes      no

8. Have you fitted energy-saving light bulbs?

yes      no

9. Do you encourage building users to switch off unnecessary lights and not leave items on stand-by (e.g. photocopier)?

yes      no

10. Have you checked water outlets – and fixed drips and leaks?

yes      no

11. Have you installed water-saving devices (e.g. dual flush toilets and low spray flow or auto turn-off taps)?

yes      no

12. Are you satisfied with the environmental policy of your bank? Have you checked it?

yes      no

13. Do you use environmentally-friendly cleaning materials and paint?

yes      no

14. Do you purchase recycled paper and envelopes (to close the loop)?

yes      no

15. Do you purchase Fair Trade products (e.g. tea and coffee)?

yes      no

16. Do you use local suppliers where possible (so supporting the local economy)?

yes      no

17. Do you use crockery rather than disposable cups and plates?

yes      no

18. Does your church have collection facilities for recycling items which can be used by church members, building users or local community (e.g. cans, spectacles, stamps, printer cartridges, clothes, shoes, foil)?

yes      no

19. Does your church hold jumble sales to raise funds, recycle goods and promote the availability of goods at affordable prices?

yes      no

20. Is your churchyard management wild-life friendly (e.g. minimal use of weedkillers and pesticides, leaving some areas unmown, valuing old trees, hedges walls and stones)?

yes      no

21. Does your churchyard have other features to benefit wildlife (e.g. bird feeding station, bird nest boxes, bat boxes, piles of leaves and rotting logs for insects and hedgehogs)?

yes      no

22. Is there a place outside for prayer/contemplation/outdoor worship?

yes      no

23. Does your church magazine publish green tips?

yes      no

24. Does your church encourage walking and cycling to church?

yes      no

25. Does someone read the meters regularly to assess the church's energy use?

yes      no

26. Has anyone calculated the carbon footprint of your buildings?

yes      no

27. Is the congregation encouraged to reduce their carbon footprint in their everyday lives?

yes      no

28. Does your church support overseas development/climate adaptation initiatives?

yes      no

29. Has your church drawn on links that members have with environmental bodies?

yes      no

30. Has your church supported or initiated environmental community schemes (e.g. clean-ups, LETS)?

yes      no

## The Next Steps

Pass this leaflet on to your minister, and/or to your church council. Ask them to celebrate what your church is already doing well and to consider what further steps you can take to make your church more eco-friendly.

## Ideas to raise environmental awareness at your church

Especially useful is the **CEL ecocell programme**. Contact CEL (Tony Emerson 020 8769 4078) to find out how to set up an *ecocell* in your neighbourhood. All you need is available on line: information, ready-to-print hand outs, fact sheets, biblical reflections, measuring sheets. [www.christian-ecology.org.uk/ecocell.htm](http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk/ecocell.htm)