

**St John's Scottish Episcopal Church
Green Ginger Group
Church Check-up & Recommended Actions
January 2022**

This check-up was undertaken following the format recommended by Eco-Congregations Scotland. In this a report we have summarised where we think we stand at the moment in Section 1 and provide a table of recommended actions for consideration in Section 2

SECTION 1

SPIRITUAL LIVING

Worship/Liturgy

Environmental concerns are frequently included in worship. We include praising God the Creator, saying sorry for the harm done to the environment, give thanks to God for the gift of creation and pray for the healing of creation. We worship outdoors on some special occasions, and make regular use of hymns that celebrate the wonder of creation and express the calling to care for the environment.

Theology

We have access to Christian environmental resources and in the past have produced resources with environmental themes. We have organised events that explored environmental issues and include creation/environmental issues in our teaching/preaching programme.

Children's Work, Youth Work & All-Age Worship

Work in these areas is currently very limited.

PRACTICAL LIVING

Church Property

When the building is in normal use we choose appropriate sized rooms for meetings, encourage users to switch off unnecessary lights and not leave equipment on stand-by. We maintain plumbing to ensure there are no drips and leaks and have installed water-saving devices where possible. Candle wax is collected and saved for recycling

Church Management

Purchasing Policy & Financial Management

We are not aware of a specific purchasing policy being in place, although recognise the efforts made by those responsible for purchasing and financial management to consider environmental issues in their work.

Catering

We have previously ensured crockery is used rather than disposable cups and plates.

Waste minimisation

We provide recycling facilities for a range of items

Church Land

We make minimal use of weed killers and pesticides and have left some areas of our grounds to grow wild. We have berry-bearing trees in the grounds, as well as skimmias, rowan trees, pyracantha, crab apple, cotoneaster, apple and a hawthorn tree. There are also bird boxes as well as leaf piles and rotting logs that have been left for wildlife. The grounds include multiple quiet spaces for pater/contemplation and areas that are suitable for outdoor worship and recreation.

GLOBAL LIVING

Personal Lifestyle

We regularly publish green tips in the Cornerstone magazine and weekly updates. We have also made good use of our location to display posters and information from other organisations where relevant, we provide recycling facilities and, in the past, have actively encouraged the use of cycling and public transport.

Community Outreach

We draw effectively on links that members have with environmental bodies and have provides then with 'shop windows' through our annual Creationtide Fair. We also encourage the growing of wildflowers by distributing seeds annually.

We are a part of the Edinburgh Social Enterprise Network

We have in the past developed good links with other organisations with a view to sharing our environmental ministry and made those working on site aware of our environmental concerns and encouraged them to use recycling facilities.

Overseas Concerns

We support the work of Christian Aid and other development and conservation agencies and have taken part in One World Week as well as promoting fair trade. We have a group that considers environmental issues.

Climate Change

We have previously taken regular meter readings as a way of actively monitoring our energy use and calculated the carbon footprint of the church's public buildings. We have also taken steps to reduce our carbon footprint and encouraged the congregation to do the same. A carbon audit was at one time part of the reporting for the AGM.

SECTION 2

Recommended Actions for consideration

Note that these are suggestions for consideration that arise from our audit. The list is not exhaustive and the suggestions for who should take each recommendation further based purely on our understanding of who is best placed to do so, or who may in the past have been in a position to do so.

Action	For consideration/action by:
<i>Make more use of our outdoor space in worship</i>	Ministry Team
<i>Consider the possibility of developing a strand on the environment in our Christian Formations groups.</i>	Ministry Team
<i>Ensure environmental issues are included in developing work with Children & Young People</i>	Ministry Team
<i>Engage Energy Savings Trust to undertake a full environmental audit of our buildings (a free service that had been used previously)</i>	Fabric Committee Church Manager
<i>Continue to pursue improving the heating system, which will allow timer and thermostatic controls.</i>	Fabric Committee Church Manager
<i>Increase the use of energy-saving light bulbs</i>	Fabric Committee Church Manager
<i>Consider insulating our buildings where possible.</i>	Fabric Committee Church Manager

<i>Investigate potential for improvements on residential properties.</i>	Fabric Committee Church Manager
<i>Investigate the environmental policy of our bank</i>	Finance Committee Treasurer
<i>Develop an ethical investment policy for any savings.</i>	Finance Committee Treasurer
<i>Ensure we consistently purchase and use fair trade products and use local suppliers where possible.</i>	Church Manager
<i>Ensure we are using environmentally friendly cleaning materials and paint</i>	Church Manager
<i>Ensure we are using recycled paper and envelopes.</i>	Church Manager
<i>Establish policy of not using single use crockery and cutlery</i>	Implementation by social committee and others arranging hospitality
<i>Consider using farmers markets or local suppliers to reduce food miles and promote the local economy.</i>	Church Manager
<i>Support people to use existing recycling and other green initiatives in Edinburgh.</i>	Ministry Team?
<i>Encourage church members to consider things such as whether people should be travelling great distances to get to St John's and what the impact may be on being a gathered congregation as a result of streaming services.</i> [NB Vestry were unsure about this particular point – our thinking was more along the lines of how we might minimise the impact of our travel than on discouraging people from attending!]	Ministry Team? Magazine?
<i>Encourage visitors and tourists to 'green their lifestyles'</i> [Vestry had some questions about this – our intention would not be to imply that people were not already doing things, but to encourage them to consider what more they might be able to do]	Communications Committee Guardians

<i>Engage tourists & visitors more on green issues, including finding ways to tap the wisdom and experience of visitors.</i>	Communications Committee Guardians
<i>Build on existing links with other organisations, including terrace businesses, to promote and share our environmental concerns.</i>	Church Manager All church organisations
<i>Participate in local community initiatives where feasible.</i>	All church organisations
<i>Consider re-igniting or developing overseas links (Ghana, India, Uganda, Mombasa) and make environmental concern a part of this.</i>	International Committee
<i>Undertake a regular audit of our natural resources, including reporting on our carbon footprint and success in reducing it at the AGM each year</i>	Church Manager