ECO CHURCH

AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

A ROCHA UK
Caring for God's Earth

Eco Diocese status will be given to your Diocese when it has achieved and can demonstrate evidence of the following:

Please provide dates where applicable and copies of materials to support the application

1. Registered its intent to become an Eco Diocese	A Rocha UK Office Use: Y / N
2. Commissioned an individual or group	Name and contact details for individual or group:
3. Written an environmental policy	Attach copy or provide web link to agreed policy[i]
4. Gained the appropriate levels of local church registrations and Awards for Eco Church[ii]	Provide details in the separate application form
5. Achieved the relevant Eco Church Award level 'In relation to its Diocesan House or Office (where appropriate) and Land (where appropriate)'	Address of Diocesan House / Office and date when Award made:
6. Embedded environmental issues 'Within the curricula of its ongoing ministerial education'	Provide evidence (dates & brief details) for e.g. Continuing Ministerial Development days, Post Ordinand Trainee days.

7. Managed Diocesan investments ethically 'In line with the ethical policies of the Church of England or Church in Wales national investing bodies, including on climate change, guided by the recommendations of the Ethical Investment Advisory Group'[iii]	Provide evidence of ethical investment
8. Worked with other Dioceses and / or faith groups 'To encourage greater environmental action, including promoting Eco Church as a helpful tool'	Evidence of joint meetings, events and initiatives
9. Established the habit of recording and celebrating individual environmental initiatives	Evidence of Diocesan news, local media articles, promotional videos etc

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[i] **Policy.** 'That has been agreed by Bishop's Council and Diocesan Synod/Church in Wales Diocesan Conference'. Evidence can be in the form of a signed policy or an e-mail from Council / Synod / Conference acknowledging and supporting the policy

[ii] **Eco Church definition**. It is acknowledged that The Church of England and The Church in Wales has vacant and / or closed church properties including heritage buildings which cannot be sold and for which the Church body is still responsible. For the purposes of Eco Church and Eco Diocese, the focus and intent is to encourage *worshipping communities of people* to care for God's earth.

As such, a church building should be included if it has a regular (even once a month) service of worship for a congregation. If the same congregation meets in several church buildings in rotation (and for example has a joint PCC) it can be considered as one worshipping community or 'church' but the *individual church buildings* should be included in the Buildings section of an Eco Church survey. For example, it might be that one church building has all LED lighting where a different church building does not.
Specific inclusions in the 'count' of churches: Cathedrals, Anglican religious orders, the church building or other buildings in which a worshipping community or congregation regularly meets. This includes buildings that are licensed for worship and have congregations.
Specific exclusions: Closed churches, heritage churches and licensed buildings where no congregation and chapels of ease

Church in Wales Mission or Ministry Areas
Churches are now grouped into Mission Areas, (for example 21 in the Diocese of St Asaph) and they work almost like a super parish. They share resources and people and report back to the diocese as a Mission Area. Each church reports to its Mission Area Conference and this information is reported to the Diocese, they each have a Mission Area Leader (lay or ordained). For the purposes of Eco Church, each Mission or Ministry Area can identify its active congregations (and church buildings associated with such) and record the % of Eco Church registrations and awards on this basis. Each MA can then provide this information to the Diocese to monitor progression towards an award.

Diocese of Europe
Church communities are often called 'chaplaincies'

[iii] Check for the latest Church of England policy here.