

Action Plan

This action plan is to layout -

*) Our motivations for acting

A) Goals. Exactly what we are aiming to achieve by July 2021.

B) Steps to reach the goals. The steps, month-by-month, of how we will get there.

C) Remaining gaps to fill. What support is missing or necessary for each stage.

[Guidance to filling out this action plan is available at this link.](#)

We understand that everyone's church context is different. Spending time and working out the details of what to put in this document will take time but will be really helpful and make the rest of the time on the programme more straightforward to follow along with. You may want to develop different ways of recording the same information. This is fine. Please still return this document for Hope for the Future and USPG's records because it will help us know how to support you over the coming months.

Section * - Motivations

Please check the guidance document before completing this section.

<p>1. What is your primary motivation for taking action on climate change? Care for God's creation, climate justice now and a concern for future generations (there is no Planet B) are primary and urgent imperatives for people of faith. The Church of England needs to be proactive rather than, as hitherto, reactive in its address to and action on climate and other environmental/ecological issues.</p>
<p>2. If there is only one thing <u>you</u> get from the Make COP26 Count programme what do you want that one thing to be? A better sense of what should be promoted to the Benefice as potentially positive practical actions in the present and the future, locally and globally.</p>
<p>3. Imagine that we're in July and you're feeling disappointed... what would the reason(s) be? A failure to generate intenser concern within the Benefice as to our environmental plight, with a consequent failure to produce serious individual and corporate commitment to taking more action on climate change and other environmental and ecological matters.</p>
<p>4. If <u>your church</u> only got one thing from the Make COP26 Count programme, what would you want that one thing to be? Raised consciousness of the theological significance of environmental, ecological and climate issues producing within each of the Benefice churches a culture of constant review and action on the issues, grounded in hope.</p>
<p>5. Imagine that we're in July and you're feeling disappointed about the action taken in your church... what would the reason(s) be?</p>

That indifference on the part of a large proportion of our congregations, or simply bad planning and communication, had meant that action taken had been of a limited kind, not particularly challenging, not widely owned and falling short of that of which a Benefice richly blessed in human and other resources ought to be capable.

Section A - Goals.

Please check the guidance document before completing this section.

Hosting a Climate Sunday Service

Summary: Ministry Team has agreed that a Climate Sunday be held a date yet to be determined (probably 9th May).

How will we know if it has been a success?

Positive comment offered by those participating and increased reference in subsequent 'ordinary' services to climate matters (and other environmental and ecological concerns). Raised awareness with a good number of people committing to particular actions by signing up after the service, examples of what might be done having been listed. That there was evidence that it challenged and even annoyed some people (not produced mainly a bored 'been there, know that' response. Generation of climate grief and the sharing and praying of that.

Why would this be good to achieve?

It would assert the theological and liturgical credentials of climate concern - and see previous box.

Practical Action

Summary: Work towards Eco Church / School(?) awards. Congregation members to offer other initiatives. Initiatives to be shaped by a hopeful focus on shaping a better future for young people, world and church. Benefice young people to be fully involved in generating ideas and running projects. Eg, more walking to Church (mini pilgrimages); setting climate challenges - a different climate task a day / week).

How will we know if it has been a success? Bronze Awards, at least, achieved by all of Churches in Benefice. Other initiatives up and running and supported across the Benefice.

Why would this be good to achieve? To share success in a project that would reduce carbon emissions and enhance wildlife habitat. Producing and embracing other initiatives will offer wider breadth, opportunity and ownership in respect of the Benefice's environmental programme.

Political Engagement

Summary: At least two meetings of Benefice representatives with local MP pre COP26, one of which has been held. Further meetings post-COP26 to be arranged. Engagement with WODC and Town and Parish Councils to gain information on policies and action at this level, audit policies and actions and press the environmental agenda where appropriate. Making alliances with other churches and community groups engaged with environmental issues to achieve greater effectiveness. Press Government and Local Authorities to adopt and support climate-friendly technologies (gather information from

Centre for Alternative Technology) **NB.** MP is Aviation Minister and RAF Brize Norton is nearby.

How will we know if it has been a success? Just having the meeting with the MP would be good, as expressing our Benefice's commitment to action on climate issues. Some commitments on these issues might be offered by MP. Evidence that local environmental issues and concerns are being taken into account by local authorities. Functional connections with other organisations.

Why would this be good to achieve? It would keep the issue before someone in power and possibly influence that person's thinking. Benefice engagement at local level would indicate an outward facing concern on our part for the welfare of our communities and might help to achieve improvements.

Section B - Steps to reach the goals

Please check the guidance document before completing this section. Before you undertake completing the table below, you should have a list of all the possible steps you could take to reach your goals.

At the 3 month mark (April) - Consciousness raised in congregations about climate, climate justice, environmental and ecological issues and their relevance to Church. Group formed to work on environmental liturgy, including but not limited to, Climate Sunday provision, and to audit attention given to climate issues in worship in general. All Benefice churches in agreement to pursue Eco Church Awards. Groups in all churches formed to take forward engagement with Eco Church. Political Action planning group formed. Information-gathering from with WODC, Town Council and Parish Councils begun. Engagement with other churches and community organisations concerned for climate and environment.

At the 6 month mark (July) -

Climate Sunday Service held (9th May).
One meeting held with MP.
Eco Church Surveys received by DCCs and PCCs from Eco Church Awards Groups.
Energy Audits planned and implemented in conjunction with Diocese.
Action taken in all categories towards achieving Eco Church Awards.
Environment established as a standing item on PCC / DCC Agendas.
A measure of collaboration with other churches /organisations achieved.
Auditing of Local Authority policies and actions under way.

Feb	Book meeting with MP. Form groups (liturgy and worship, Eco Church and Energy Audit, political action and engagement with churches and community groups).	
March	Invite other initiatives from congregations (notices, benefice) – part of ongoing consciousness-raising. Pursue benefice-wide agreement for Eco Church engagement.	

	<p>Begin environmental audit of liturgy. Plan Climate Sunday and publicise it in town and villages. Begin information gathering from Local Authorities.</p>	
April	<p>Continue with March activities.</p>	
May	<p>Meet MP. Hold Climate Sunday (9th May). Receive Eco Church Surveys. Carry out Energy Audits.. Establish report from Group as a standing agenda item for PCCs/DCCs.</p>	
June	<p>Implementation of Energy Audit recommendations, following PCC discussions. Work towards Eco Church Awards being carried out by all churches. Seek meetings with Local Authorities, if appropriate, following an audit of their environmental positions.</p>	
July	<p>Implementation of Energy Audit recommendations Work towards Eco Church Awards being carried out by all churches .</p>	

Section C - Remaining Gaps to fill

Please check the guidance document before completing this section.

<p>1. What support/knowledge/information are you missing which you will need to complete the goals you have set? Knowledge of how our Local Authorities are engaging with environmental matters.</p>
<p>2. In your plan as it stands, what are the months that look particularly hard? March, June.</p>
<p>3. What further support would you like from Hope for the Future/USPG? For HFTF / USPG to point out developments in the climate discussion, indicating what is happening with UK Government policy and how people are responding. Offering HFTF / USPG perspectives and generally providing insight into what is going on at higher levels than our own local one</p>
<p>4. Is there anything else we should be aware of? We want to get wide ownership of our project and actions such that people don't see the issues we are tackling and the actions we are taking as merely for an interest group. We think everyone has a personal responsibility to take steps to ameliorate climate change and environmental degradation. We want to persuade people that there is something that each person can do and that what they do can and should be done in a spirit of hope that it will contribute to a better future for the planet and its inhabitants, present and future. We are wholly committed to engaging young people on climate,</p>

climate justice and environmental and ecological issues and having them play a leading role in determining what our practical responses should be.