

Synod 2021

Climate Change

Questions to be considered in Breakout Groups

1. What can local charges be doing now, ahead of any programme of actions to become a carbon neutral church to be agreed by GS 2021 in June?
2. What would you like help with?
3. Have you already got/seen examples of success in reducing the church's carbon footprint that would be good to share?

Analysis, grouped by themes and suggestions for Climate Change Group Action

Theme	Feedback comment	Potential action
Prayer and Mission	<p>Teaching was felt to be important, the sacredness of God's creation which we all should as followers of Christ be aware of and lead our congregations and communities towards.</p> <p>Creating prayers for inclusion in our liturgies which reflect our commitment to Climate and Sustainability.</p>	<p>The Church in Society Committee report to General Synod has articulated that this is something that will be linked across several provincial and Diocesan Boards/Committees and the Climate Change group's role will be to support this and offer advice or comment and promote the activities that are emerging.</p>

		<p>We are aware that action is currently underway through the Liturgy Committee, who have been developing material for 'Creationtide'.</p> <p>CMD Training will also focus on supporting this ministry.</p> <p>Climate Change Group has been promoting 'Climate Sunday' which puts creation at the heart of worship.</p> <p>Eco-Congregations Scotland has some resources.</p>
<p>Energy</p>	<p>Look at renewable energy suppliers.</p> <p>Install curtains, draft excluders etc.</p> <p>Consult Eco-congregation for advice on solar panels etc.</p> <p>Research available grants towards double glazing etc. short deadlines for submission suggest "over ready" projects.</p> <p>Use less heating and less paper.</p> <p>Research heating consultants.</p> <p>Energy Audit</p>	<p>No surprisingly many of the comments are about the use of energy, which recognises what a large part this plays in the running of charges.</p> <p>This is also recognised in the Church in Society Committee report to General Synod. It will be helpful to promote this and the forthcoming Toolkit to all charges through the various communications channels that we have identified as a Group.</p> <p>There is a need to collate and gather information that can be collectively shared. Solutions may be small (e.g., curtains and draught excluders) or may require serious</p>

	<p>Infrared heating systems</p> <p>Most old church buildings are thermally very inefficient, and heating is a major issue. Replacing oil/gas with electric is essential. In churches with high roof spaces, installing panel heaters under pews or radiant wall heaters above directs heat to where people sit.</p> <p>Lighting: LED lights including tubes make a huge difference. LED tubes need to bypass the starter unit.</p> <p>BULB Energy is a good supplier of renewable energy; also Pure Planet.</p> <p>Insulation.</p> <p>Solar Panels.</p> <p>Secondary Glazing</p> <p>False ceiling (make it removable so that it is a temporary change and so not subject to planning permission problems</p> <p>Sourcing alternative forms of energy.</p>	<p>rethinking as part of the upgrading or retrofitting of the buildings.</p> <p>It may be helpful for the Diocese to promote (say through Area Councils) presentations from the Energy Savings Trust https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/about-us/our-programmes/ who will cover advice and support action for both church buildings and individual homes. There may also be regional network meetings of say Eco-Congregations Scotland that may be encouraged to focus, specifically on this.</p>
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<p>Buildings and grounds</p>	<p>Stop using weedkillers.</p> <p>Recycle garden waste.</p> <p>Reducing the carbon footprint of Vestry/other meetings by holding these virtually by zoom or a mix of live/virtual can be easily done and should be positively encouraged.</p> <p>Church grounds- if spacious could include not only rewilding but community plots.</p> <p>Many of our churches are listed buildings, how we use solar energy, ground source heat pumps if this is not allowed because of historically important buildings.</p> <p>Knowing what can and cannot be done with listed buildings.</p>	<p>Imaginative use of Church grounds could be a theme developed by the CCG – e.g. using the ‘Wild Church’ example at St Fillan’s, Killin.</p> <p>It is likely to be helpful to liaise with the DBC to determine good practice for Listed Buildings, or discover how joint working e.g. with CoS or Historic Environment Scotland might support us. Promotion of technical information and guidance through The Engine Shed https://www.engineshed.scot/ may also be helpful as it can specifically address issues of retrofitting Listed Buildings.</p> <p>It may be helpful to collate links to the different local authority guidance on this too.</p>
<p>Decision making</p>	<p>Make bold decisions about any current/future work (eg. heating) – not to pursue the still available cheapest option, but to embrace this now.</p> <p>Incremental steps in the “little” things.</p>	<p>The comments reflect that the Church in Society Report to Synod, and the Provincial Guidance will be welcomed.</p> <p>CCG could feedback to the Administration Board and DBC re incentivisation through the Quinquennial report.</p>

	<p>Personal choices as well as what happens in Church – our personal choices in our homes and the wider community are also our “Church” choices.</p> <p>Making sure we are moving in the right direction, an environmental audit, joining Eco congregations, networking with others, starting with small things and making sure there was an environmental champion to keep things moving.</p> <p>Influence behaviour. “Can do it” attitude.</p> <p>Shop locally Setting targets.</p> <p>Help with costs, and with an overall plan, that is workable with even small congregations.</p> <p>A lead on some form of carbon audit/structured guidance for this – to include the whole Church plant – church/hall/rectory.</p> <p>Basically, the need for a structural route map (for Ben Lawers) and collating/sharing knowledge.</p>	
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	<p>Charges should be incentivised by the Diocese to seek advice on low energy church heating and lighting options as part of Quinquennial reviews. This should also apply to rectories and church halls. Good advice on fitting solar panels and heat pumps on listed buildings is also essential. Why doesn't the Province/Diocese provide strategic funding and policy advice on this as best practice? In some charges e.g. Stanley, survival of the local charge is seen as a higher propriety than energy costs.</p>	
<p>Sharing knowledge and experience</p>	<p>A collective response to be encouraged. The Revd John Murdoch stressed the importance of working ecumenically and put forward the idea of us working with the Perth Presbytery – together we make a bigger more sustainable impact both in and beyond our churches.</p> <p>Carbon footprint – 360carbon.org</p> <p>Central source of advice.</p> <p>Share practice and advice with other churches.</p>	<p>This section reflects that promotion of good practice and shared experience will have a large part to play in helping charges develop their action plans.</p> <p>Developing the Communications Plan for the CCG will help channels and routes for this information to be identified and help it to be more visible and accessible.</p> <p>Specific skills training may come out of shared experience e.g. carbon footprint auditing – maybe those who have done this could help others who haven't through a 'Buddying' system.</p>

	<p>How to calculate carbon footprint (Zoom chat recommended 360carbon.org).</p> <p>How to get solar panels and subsidies.</p> <p>Facebook page (Provincial or Diocesan) to share solutions.</p> <p>Consider diocesan wide participation with consultants which might help smaller charges with limited finances.</p> <p>Examples of success: a real need to share experience and knowledge across the Diocese. Charges that have successfully completed retro-fit fabric or energy improvement projects should be required to provide a follow-up report to DB C for circulation to other charges. Also a need for advice that has proven long term benefits in terms of lifestyle choices – widespread cynicism about decisions made by politicians in the past 30 years, e.g. incentives to buy diesel cars and install woodchip boilers which are now known to be major pollutants. Today, everybody has to play their part in tackling climate change – we need to change hearts and minds. Training and information in carbon footprint calculation should be mandatory.</p>	
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	<p>The St Andrews University chaplaincy could harness high student interest in climate change issues towards some form of practical input to local SEC charges.</p>	
<p>Examples of success</p>	<p>The fact that some charges are exploring multi-functional buildings to avoid the waste of resources involved in only using a building for a few hours a week.</p> <p>Very encouragingly the Revd John Murdoch spoke of the inspiration coming from the imaginative use of buildings eg. St Fillan's at Killin – and how this is part of reimagining both Church and how we address climate challenges.</p> <p>Eco Congregations are helpful in pointing the way. The use of technology during Covid for services, expanding this for meetings and some services in the future.</p> <p>Churches monitoring energy bills, changing light bulbs, waste reduction and recycling projects.</p> <p>Double glazing through grants (note Community grant schemes now closed).</p> <p>More effective and cheaper heating.</p>	<p>Many of these examples are quite generic but point in the direction of the types of examples that are helpful. May need to develop a specific method of gathering examples, which can then be promoted through.</p>

	<p>Zoom.</p> <p>Local recycling e.g. church waste sorted into categories.</p> <p>Give access to local community groups to look after church garden/sell produce locally.</p> <p>Some congregations are members of Eco Congregation Scotland but silver/Gold levels hard to attain.</p> <p>Bridge of Allan Parish Church (Church of Scotland) built a carbon-neutral hall with ground source heat pump.</p> <p>Kinghorn Earthship https://sci-scotland.org.uk/visit-earthship-fife/ is innovative (may be closing down soon though).</p>	