

The Silver award recognises that a congregation has met or exceeded Eco-Congregation's basic standards in spiritual living, practical living and global living, while also addressing some more general aspects or environmental care. Please see the table below.

To achieve an award, the congregation must show that they meet (or have taken significant steps towards meeting) **all** of the criteria for that level of award, as listed in the tables below, in each of the 4 broad areas:

1. General Aspects
 - a) Evaluation and planning
 - b) Initiating and coordinating
 - c) Communication
 - d) Eco-Congregation Scotland Involvement
2. Spiritual Living
 - a) Discussing Ideas
 - b) Worship and Congregational Life
3. Practical Living
 - a) Individual Members Taking Action
 - b) Action in Church Buildings
 - c) Biodiversity, Wildlife, Grounds and Gardens
4. Global Living
 - a) Local and National Concerns
 - b) Global and International Concerns

To gain their Silver Award a congregation must show that it has achieved, or made substantial progress toward achieving, all of these 11 criteria. *(Please see the table in Appendix 2 for more details of what is looked for at each level of the award process. Details about the awards scheme are also available [here](#) on our website.)*

St John the Baptist, has been especially recommended by the assessors for

- The commitment of the Rector, Graham Taylor to environmental matters and linking it regularly with the spiritual life of the church and raising issues of environmental justice. Also the involvement of lay members in intercessions praying for the impact of climate change on all people and creatures.
- The inclusion of so many volunteers within their projects and reaching out to the wider community.
- The impressive action they have been making over the years to reduce your carbon footprint by switching to electric heating, and reducing use by installing A rated appliances when replacement is needed, and LED lighting.
- Their recycling efforts, particularly being fore-runners of blister pack recycling
- The involvement with the wider church both locally and at a national level.
- Support for Christian Aid

Quotes:

“Quote from congregation member”

Representatives of the St John the Baptist congregation would be delighted to speak to you about their award and would be happy to arrange for photographs to be taken also.
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For further information about Eco-Congregation Scotland and the award scheme please contact:

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Pictures:



Appendix 1.

Eco-Congregation Scotland.

Our Vision

- A Scotland that cares for God's creation, now and forever.

Our Values

- We care passionately for God's creation
- We are a faith based movement
- We are rooted in local groups of Christians
- We work co-operatively with each other and with others who care about the environment
- We encourage transformational change at individual, community and national levels

Our Mission

- In prayer, worship and conversation we discover what it means to care for God's creation
- We put that care into action individually, locally, nationally and globally, desiring to live justly in a transformed world
- We commit ourselves to campaigning on urgent threats to the web of life in our vulnerable world

To read more about Eco-Congregation Scotland please have a look at our website [here](#).

Appendix 2

Criteria for meeting the various levels of award.

Bronze	Silver	Gold
1. General issues		
1.1 Evaluation and planning		
The congregation has used the “church check-up” to identify the congregation’s environmental strengths and weaknesses.	The congregation has an “action plan” of eco activities, and monitors its progress.	The congregation has a long term sustainable eco “action plan” which it regularly reviews, evaluates and updates.
1.2 Initiating and coordinating		
A number of people from across the congregation are involved in initiating and coordinating eco activities	The congregation has an established group (or groups) with responsibility for initiating and coordinating eco activities, supported by the leadership of the congregation.	Eco activities, involving a significant proportion of the congregation, are embedded in the programme of many groups within the congregation, and fully supported and sustained by the leadership of the congregation.
1.3 Communication		
There is regular communication on eco issues and activities within the congregation eg newsletters, internal noticeboards.	The congregation communicates about eco issues both in and beyond the congregation eg public noticeboards, website, local media	The congregation is well-known within its community for its leadership and commitment to environmental issues.
1.4 Eco-congregation Scotland involvement		

<p>The congregation is a registered eco-congregation.</p>	<p>Members of the congregation actively support local network events (where one exists), and contribute ideas for sharing with other congregations.</p>	<p>The congregation is an active member of Eco-congregation Scotland, with individuals showing their commitment by (for example) attending the Annual Gathering or taking on leadership roles at local, network or national level.</p>
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2. Spiritual Living: helping the whole congregation to make the link between their Christian faith and environmental concerns.

2.1 Discussing issues

<p>Church leaders (deacons, elders, vestry etc) discuss the role of eco activity in the spiritual life of the church.</p>	<p>There are opportunities for leaders and members of the congregation to meet to discuss environmental issues.</p>	<p>Leaders and members of the congregation are regularly involved in discussing environmental and lifestyle issues.</p>
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2.2 Worship and congregational life

<p>Aspects of creation care are sometimes reflected in worship, prayers and sermons.</p>	<p>Care for creation is regularly reflected in worship, prayers, bible studies and sermons.</p>	<p>Care for creation is embedded in the worship, study and prayer life of the congregation, and reflected in the congregation's mission or policy statements.</p>
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3. Practical Living: Taking practical action in individual lives, the church and/or church grounds.

3.1 Individual members taking action.

<p>Basic practical steps to reduce energy use and waste by individual members in their own lives are being encouraged.</p>	<p>Members of the congregation are being challenged and supported to find ways of significantly reducing their own impact on the environment, by considering issues including energy use, recycling, travel and personal finance.</p>	<p>Individual members are actively challenged and supported to reduce their own environmental impact. In addition, members of the congregation are involved in leading or actively supporting one or more practical projects within the community to reduce environmental impacts.</p>
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3.2 Action in church buildings.

<p>Basic practical steps are being taken to reduce energy consumption and waste (where possible) within the church building(s).</p>	<p>The congregation is developing and beginning to implement a strategy for the church as an organisation to significantly reduce its impact on the environment by considering issues including energy use, recycling, travel and finance.</p>	<p>The church is implementing and developing its environmental strategy in innovative and imaginative ways, is continuing to monitor its energy use, and has undertaken significant steps to minimise energy use and reduce the carbon footprint of its buildings, to reduce waste and to implement appropriate actions, where possible, related to travel and finance.</p>
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3.3 Biodiversity, wildlife, grounds and gardens

<p>The congregation has considered and implemented some action to adapt the church grounds (where possible) to be more environmentally friendly.</p>	<p>Members are being encouraged to take practical steps in and around both the church grounds and their own properties to be more environmentally friendly.</p>	<p>In addition to action in church grounds and members' properties, the congregation actively supports projects in the wider community to support biodiversity and wildlife.</p>
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4. Global Living: Having a positive impact on and/or working with national and global environmental justice concerns.

4.1 Local and national concerns

<p>Members of the congregation are made aware of local and national eco concerns through church notices, newsletters, meetings, posters etc</p>	<p>Members of the congregation are actively involved in supporting positive environmental initiatives in the local area or the UK.</p>	<p>The congregation is actively engaged in supporting local or national action to combat environmental damage and build a more sustainable future.</p>
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4.2 global and international concerns

<p>Members of the congregation are made aware of global and international eco concerns through church notices, newsletters, meetings, posters etc</p>	<p>The congregation is actively involved in supporting FairTrade, and charities working in parts of the world impacted by climate change.</p>	<p>The congregation is actively engaged in supporting and campaigning for international action to combat environmental damage and build a more sustainable future.</p>
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