

CIRCUIT ECO NEWS

Sheridan Pengelly ECO Circuit Steward

In January I wrote about how ECO work across the Circuit had developed in 2021. Of course, we are now well into 2022 and so here are our targets for the Chelmsford Circuit this year which have been agreed by the circuit meeting.

As always our aim is to share the good news that God cares for the planet he created and to encourage all of us as disciples of Jesus to do our part in restoring our climate, not just for our own benefit, but for the benefit of those parts of the world already experiencing climate change and for future generations. We aim to do this by working towards an ECO Circuit award from A Rocha. <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

In order to achieve this we need to demonstrate the following as a circuit:



- Register intent to be an ECO Circuit with A Rocha
- Commission an individual or group
- Agree an environmental policy
- Gain the appropriate level of awards for ECO Church
- Achieved appropriate level of award for Circuit office and land if appropriate.
- Embedded environmental issues within the curricula of ongoing presbyterial and local preacher education and support
- Managed Circuit investments ethically
- Worked with other denominations and or faith groups
- Established the habit of recording and celebrating individual environmental initiatives

Some of these we have already achieved, some will need more work.

In addition we have also added:

- Circuit meeting to debate divestment from fossil fuels with a view to making a divestment announcement. (Carried over from last year)
- Encourage churches to join the ECO energy project (bulk buying energy). Target 80% of churches as part of the scheme by the end of 2022.

How can YOU help? - by sharing your news with us

We want to celebrate any initiatives that are happening in your church. Please tell us about anything you are doing – maybe something new, or something you have been doing for a while. Do you have a church garden? Have you put up a bird box in church grounds? Do you use fair trade tea and coffee? Does your church work with other faith groups or denominations on environmental issues? Is it on the agenda at Churches Together events?

Send some pictures and/or some words describing what is happening to either myself at sheridan@pengelly.info or Karen in the Circuit office and we'll make sure it gets in the next Circuit magazine.

Finally, as Easter approaches some top tips to make it a little greener

- 1. Look out for Easter Eggs that have less packaging***
- 2. For adults why not gift a plant instead?***
- 3. Cooking lunch on Easter Sunday? Consider using a slow cooker instead of the oven to use less energy and save money.***