

Why Christians must act on environmental issues:

“Living in a way that honours rather than threatens the planet is living out what it means to be made in the image of God. ... What we face today is nothing less than a choice about how genuinely human we want to be.” **(Dr Rowan Williams)**

“Our responsibility is to cultivate and care for the Earth in accordance with God’s command (Gen 2:15). We are called not only to respect the natural environment, but also to show respect for, and solidarity with, all the members of our human family. These two dimensions are closely related.” **(Pope Francis)**

“To hurt the Earth is a sin.” **(Patriarch Bartholomew 1)**

“We should care for God’s Creation – not out of fear about what is going to happen, but out of love ... So Christians should be at the forefront of the environmental cause and movement because in our care for Creation we reflect our love of the Creator.” **(Revd Nicky Gumbel, Pioneer of the Alpha course)**

What to do next:

Share these ideas by putting the centre pages of this leaflet on your church noticeboard, or on your fridge at home.

Visit our website www.greenchristian.org.uk and click on **Activities** to see our current campaigns for living gently on the Earth: Joy in Enough (towards a sustainable economics), LOAF, Rainforest Fund raising money to save endangered habitat, and our response to the climate emergency.

Click on **Resources** to find our “Carbon Reduction Course”, *ecocell*. Here you will find additional information and material, prayers, poems, stories and activities to discuss with a group of friends. Hopefully this will inspire you to take the first steps on a journey in carbon-free discipleship to a more fossil-free lifestyle.

For working out your own carbon footprint visit www.footprint.wwf.org.uk/ which is a simple and fun online carbon footprint calculator – but remember we need to get to net-zero ASAP, not 2045 as suggested by WWF.

www.climatestewards.org/resources/duplo-footprint/ gives information on the average UK carbon footprint of 8.1 tonnes. This emphasises the challenge of moving to net-zero as soon as possible.

Nine Ways of living gently on the Earth



Green Christian

We are a community of ordinary Christians from all backgrounds and traditions. Inspired by our faith, we work to care for Creation through prayer, living simply, public witness, campaigning and mutual encouragement. We walk alongside those of faith and no faith.

We welcome new members. Join us!

www.greenchristian.org.uk/connect/join-us/

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Environmental problems can make us wonder “what on earth can I do?” But living in a way that respects what God has made is part of our joyful discipleship and, by inspiring others to join us, we can begin to change the world.

Inside this leaflet are nine ways to live more gently, on the Earth. Why not tick the things that you already do and choose one or two things to work on each month?

Nine ways of living gently on the Earth:-

1. Stand up for the planet:

- get to know your MP,
- write letters, sign an online petition,
- go on a protest march.

2. Get connected:

- seek out like-minded people in your local area or online, to encourage one another.

3. Practise gratitude and generosity:

- simplify, be liberated by needing less.

4. Be creative:

- reinvent second-hand goods from charity shops,
- improvise, make things,
- try swishing – clothes swap!



Ordinary Christians,
Extraordinary Times

www.greenchristian.org.uk

5. Reconnect with the natural world:

- get wet – dig the earth,
- grow herbs on your window sill,
- save and cherish water,
- take an interest in wildflowers, bees, butterflies, fish, birds and rocks,
- include the Earth in all Church liturgies,
- plant trees for special occasions such as weddings and baptisms.

6. Use your LOAF!

Locally produced,
Organically grown,
Animal friendly,
Fairly traded.

- support local shops,
- try to buy British fruit and veg in season,
- grow some of your own food,
- eat less meat and dairy,
- buy free-range eggs and meat and sustainably-caught fish (MSC),
- suggest communal Church meals follow the LOAF principles.

7. Travel light:

- walk, cycle, take the bus, tram or train, if possible, and use local shops, notice the beauty on your doorstep,
- organise a lift share scheme for your Church,
- don't fly: a transatlantic passenger blows their annual fair share of carbon in one go. If you must fly, offset (e.g. £5 per 1000 miles or www.climatestewards.org)
- most European travel is possible by train: www.seat61.com for more information.

9. Go fossil-free and reduce use:

- change your electricity provider or campaign for your university, council or Church to disinvest,
- insulate your home,
- wear an extra layer, and turn the thermostat down one or two degrees,
- use hot water bottle, or an extra blanket, instead of heating the whole house at night,
- if buying new appliances go for AAA rated,
- place your desk by a window,
- generate your own electricity.

8. Explore this island:

- get in touch with the seasons,
- seek out local adventures,
- enjoy the journey and limit your driving