

Towards Net Zero

Actions for Chaplaincies



Appoint a LEO (Local Environment Officer)

An LEO is a motivator and champion of Caring for Creation in the chaplaincy's activities. They are supported by information, contact and useful resources from the Diocesan and Archdeaconry Environment Officers.

A draft LEO role outline can be found on the diocesan website.

When you have appointed your LEO, put them in touch with your Archdeaconry Environment Officer / Diocesan Environment Officer.

Measure energy use and carbon emissions from Chaplaincy activity

Measuring your carbon footprint and understanding the sources of emissions is an important step to reducing it. The Diocese in Europe recommends Climate Stewards 360Carbon (360carbon.org) as the tool to do this.



Excited by the Church's commitment to net zero by 2030? Want to know how to put this into action in your chaplaincy? The Diocese in Europe has a Towards Net Zero programme of activities. Here's what we're asking chaplaincies to do for phase 1 (from 2023).

Register for Eco-Church

(or continue with implementation if already registered)

The EcoChurch programme encompasses Worship and teaching, Stewardship of Buildings and Land, Lifestyle, and Global and community outreach.

It is a useful starting point for engaging congregations on personal aspects of carbon emissions reduction and care for creation. Although it has UK roots, the programme is adaptable to churches of many different contexts. Many churches in the Diocese already have useful experience to share.

To explore Eco-Church specifically for the Diocese in Europe, visit the Caring for Creation pages on the diocesan website.



Make a Towards Net-zero carbon plan

Links to resources to help with this are available on the Diocese in Europe website starting with practical tips and will be supplemented with further guidance to support chaplaincies. One key area for churches to consider in carbon reduction plans is heating – we may need to think about 'heating the people not the buildings'. Specific webinars on heating for churches are available from the Church of England Environment website.

Install energy efficient lighting

Where churches or other properties are managed by chaplaincies, a review of lighting systems and installation of energy efficient lighting should be undertaken if not already in place. LEDs, motion sensors and many other options are available which can lead to greatly improved energy efficiency (and lower bills!)



Switch to green electricity

All chaplaincies which are able to choose their own energy provider are encouraged to switch to a 100% renewable electricity tariff. Some locations may also have green gas options (biogas). If your church rents or shares premises, a conversation with your landlords / hosts about choice of energy provider is encouraged.