

## RESOURCES: ENERGY/ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

Appendix 5

For a simple energy audit we recommend churches use the one available on the Shrinking the Footprint website - [http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org/measure\\_audit.php](http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org/measure_audit.php) . This encourages churches to assess their current energy footprint and keep a record of their energy usage with a view to becoming more energy efficient.

For a more comprehensive environmental audit please visit the Eco-Congregation website - [www.ecocongregation.org](http://www.ecocongregation.org) (further details below)

## RESOURCES: BOOKS, STUDY PROGRAMMES, ORGANISATIONS, AND ADVICE

### Eco-Congregation

This programme is organised by a series of modules grouped into four sets:

#### Set 1: Grounding in Faith

Module 1: Ecological audit – this helps churches to identify what they are already doing to help the environment and what more they could do. It begins by asking the church to assess what activities are taking place in each of the five Marks of Mission categories and whether sufficient weight is given to the fifth Mark ('to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation; to sustain and renew the life of the earth). It reminds us that a church with a holistic mission has activities relating to each of the Five Marks.

Module 2: Celebrating creation – ideas for worship

Module 3 – Creation and Christianity – theological perspectives

#### Set 2: Growing in Faith

Module 4: Acorns to oaks – ideas for children's work

Module 5: Tread gently, go green – ideas for youth groups

Module 6: Exploring God's green word – Bible Study

#### Set 3: Managing in Faith

Module 7: Greening the Cornerstone – caring for church premises

Module 8: Greening the purse strings – finance

Module 9: Planting and conserving Eden – caring for the church grounds.

#### Set 4: Living in Faith

Module 10: Green choices – personal lifestyles

Module 11: Community matters – projects with the local community

Module 12: Global neighbours – worldwide focus

The modules are resources for guidance only. Each church is free to use them, adapt them or create their own. To gain the award there needs to have been progress in three areas:

- Worship and teaching
- Practical action with church buildings land and church management
- Outreach to the local and global community

Contact: [ecocongregation@rase.org.uk](mailto:ecocongregation@rase.org.uk) or tel: 024 7685 3061

Website: [www.ecocongregation.org](http://www.ecocongregation.org)

**Eco-schools** [www.eco-schools.org.uk](http://www.eco-schools.org.uk) Eco-Schools is an international award programme that guides schools on their journey to incorporate sustainable development issues and sustainable practices into the heart of school life.

## STUDY CENTRES

The Hampshire Outdoor Education Service lists a number of study centres for use by schools and educational groups on its website: [www3.hants.gov.uk/education/outdoor-education](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/outdoor-education). The following are maintained by Hampshire, Southampton or Portsmouth councils.

- Calshot Activities Centre, tel: 023 8089 2077 [www.calshot.com/field.html](http://www.calshot.com/field.html)
- Minstead Environmental Education Centre, tel 023 8081 3437  
[www.hants.gov.uk/minstead](http://www.hants.gov.uk/minstead)
- Portsmouth Outdoor Centre, Environmental Study Dept, tel: 023 9266 3873k  
[www.portsmouthoutdoor.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthoutdoor.co.uk)
- Sparsholt Schools Centre for Environmental Education tel: 01962 797201  
[schoolscentre@sparsholt.ac.uk](mailto:schoolscentre@sparsholt.ac.uk)
- Stubbington Study Centre, tel 01329 662244 [www.stubbingtonstudycentre.co.uk](http://www.stubbingtonstudycentre.co.uk)

The following are a list of independent environmental study/field centres that cater for schools and other educational groups:

- Blashfield Lakes Study Centre, Ringwood, tel 01425 472760
- Countryside Education Trust (New Forest Study Centre), Beaulieu, Brockenhurst – day visits and residential, tel 01590 612401, [www.cet.org.uk](http://www.cet.org.uk)
- Gilbert White Field Centre, Selborne, tel: 01420 511517 or email  
[gilbertwhitefsc@britishlibrary.net](mailto:gilbertwhitefsc@britishlibrary.net)
- Marwell Conservation Education Centre, tel: 01962 777835 or email  
[education@marwell.org.uk](mailto:education@marwell.org.uk)
- The Sustainability Centre, Droxford, nr Petersfield, tel: 01730 823166 or [www.earthworks-trust.com](http://www.earthworks-trust.com)
- Swanwick Nature Reserve, tel: 01489 570240 or website, [www.hwt.org.uk](http://www.hwt.org.uk) (follow links to education)

## COURSES

**Certificate in Christian Rural and Environmental Studies (CRES)** - a 2 year certificate course for people interested in studying rural and environmental issues from a Christian perspective: tel 01865 874404 or visit the website [www.cres.org.uk](http://www.cres.org.uk).

**Sustaining the Earth: A Christian approach to caring for the environment**, by Tim Cooper. St John's Extension Studies, ISBN 1 900920 03 4 (1997) A Christian view of the environment. This workbook is designed to help us look at the state of the planet today, and asks what Christian values should shape the Church's response to the situation; a flexible resource for on-going learning and change.

## BOOKS FOR GROUP STUDY

**Sharing God's Planet: A Christian Vision for a Sustainable Future** (Church House Publishing 2005), contains a foreword by the Archbishop of Canterbury, a succinct presentation of the need for a Christian response to the ecological crisis, a list of organisations and further reading.

**Living in a Fragile World** by Peter Privett: a spiritual exploration of conservation and citizenship using the methods of Godly Play – a workbook for adults and children from the age of seven (Bible Reading Fellowship, 2003)

**Jesus and the Earth** by James Jones (SPCK 2003)

**God at Work** by John Davies: Creation then and now – a practical exploration.

**Between the Flood and the Rainbow** Operation Noah Study Guide (May 2008) A Study Guide on Climate Change based upon key themes in Catholic Social Teaching. It is intended for study and reflection by adult groups. The Guide contains agendas for six meetings with accompanying appendices, reflection and action sheets, reading sheets, plus a prayer and worship section.

**Paint the Church Green** - A group course by Ellen Teague - Published by Kevin Mayhew, June 2008. This course enables church groups to explore the relationship between faith and concern for the natural world.

## OTHER BOOKS

**Thinking Biblically about Climate Change** by Richard Bull. Designed for use by both individuals and small groups this Scripture Union book challenges Christians to consider the issue of climate change from a biblical perspective

**How Many Lightbulbs Does it Take to Change a Christian?** Claire Foster & David Shreeve (ISBN 978-07151-4127-4) A Pocket Guide to Shrinking Your Ecological Footprint:

**Don't Stop at the Lights.** Claire Foster & David Shreeve (ISBN 9780 715141274): a practical environmental guide structured around the Church's year to help you create a greener Church.

**The Environment: A Christian Perspective** by Nicky Gumbel (Dec 2006, ISBN 1904074987) a short booklet that looks at a Christian response to the environment and examines whether or not as Christians there is anything we can contribute to the debate

**'L' is for Lifestyle**, by Ruth Valerio (Nov 2008) ISBN 978 844743438 This is essential reading for those beginning to get active in living lightly and justly in God's world.

**Planetwise**, by Dave Bookless (Feb 2008) ISBN 978184474251 6 'I was in the act of throwing away my family's rubbish while holidaying on a beautiful island when I heard God speak: "How do you think I feel about what you are doing to my world?"' Since that day, Dave Bookless has been on a mission: to share with others the compelling biblical case for caring for the planet God made for his glory and his people's enjoyment.

**Caring for Creation**, Bible Reading Fellowship: (Nov 2005) ISBN 1 84101 439 7 This book combines twelve biblical reflections from various authors with stories from A Rocha's work around the world.

**Sharing God's Planet** Church House Publishing : (Jan 2005) ISBN 9 78071 514 06 80 A short (58pp) but pithy Church of England report. It is in four parts: first, a summary of human impacts on the environment, well-informed and wide-ranging but inevitably sketchy. The sobering conclusion is that a 'tipping point', when the spheres of weather, water, air and biodiversity fall rapidly out of balance is probably imminent – stemming from humans failing to know their true place within creation.

**Cherishing the Earth** by Martin J Hodson and Margot R Hodson Drawing on stories of people who have found positive ways to respond, the Hodsons show how understanding God's concern for his whole creation can inspire us toward a more biblical lifestyle.

## Resources: an A-Z of organisations, networks and advice

**A Rocha** is a Christian nature conservation organisation, the name coming from the Portuguese for 'the rock', as the first initiative was a field study centre in Portugal. A Rocha projects are frequently cross-cultural in character, and share a community emphasis, with a focus on science and research, practical conservation and environmental education.

A Rocha, 1 Lancaster Road, Southall, Middlesex, UB1 1NP [www.arocha.org](http://www.arocha.org)

**British Gas** provides the *Conservation Green* campaign for schoolchildren and their teachers to promote and reward greener behaviour. [www.think-energy.com](http://www.think-energy.com)

**The Carbon Neutral Company**, based in London, invests in forestry and climate friendly technologies. [www.carbonneutral.com](http://www.carbonneutral.com)

**The Carbon Trust** is the UK government's focus for encouraging work that reduces carbon emissions today and develops commercially viable low carbon technologies that will reduce carbon emissions in the future. [www.carbontrust.com](http://www.carbontrust.com)

The **Centre for Alternative Technology** works to develop solutions to problems of sustainability. Through its publications, catalogue, website and centre it provides information, materials, and demonstrations of tried and tested ways of living in a more environmentally friendly way. [www.cat.org.uk](http://www.cat.org.uk) or telephone: 01654 705950

**Centre for Sustainable Energy**: CSE seeks sustainable energy solutions that engage people and communities to meet real needs for both environmentally sound and affordable energy services. It works with individuals and organisations from public, private and voluntary sections on a wide range of initiatives at local, regional and national level. [www.cse.org.uk](http://www.cse.org.uk)

**Christian Aid** is involved in working to make a difference to climate change, seeing this as a justice issue. The world's poor are bearing the brunt of global warming and Christian Aid is currently campaigning to raise awareness of the Climate Summit in Copenhagen in December 2009 as the most significant in 12 years.

Local Rep for the southern region: Susan Barry, tel 02380 706969 [SBarry@christian-aid.org](mailto:SBarry@christian-aid.org)

**Christian Ecology Link** is a multi-denominational UK Christian organization for people concerned about the environment. It provides information, mutual support and regular publications. [www.christian-ecology.org.uk](http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk)

**Climate Care** is a carbon offset organization that invests in energy efficiency, renewable energy and forest restoration projects. [www.climatecare.org](http://www.climatecare.org)

**Department for Trade and Industry** has a Low Carbon Buildings Programme which gives grants, information and resources. [www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk](http://www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk)

The **Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC)** exists to advise the Chancellor of the Diocese on the issuing of faculties for work to be undertaken on churches and to advise parishes. Requests for advice should be made to the Secretary of the DAC, Mrs Catherine Roberts: 01962 737306 or [Catherine.roberts@winchester.anglican.org](mailto:Catherine.roberts@winchester.anglican.org) .

**Eco-congregation** is a programme supported by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. It provides an ecumenical environmental toolkit with resources, support and an award scheme to encourage churches to weave creation care into their life and mission. (see p1)

[www.ecocongregation.org](http://www.ecocongregation.org)

**Energy Saving Trust** provides information and encourages a commitment to saving energy. [www.est.org.uk](http://www.est.org.uk)

**Environment Agency** is the leading public organisation for protecting and improving the environment in England and Wales. [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

**European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN)** helps the churches and other Christian groups in Europe engage in a broad range of environmental work by sharing information and common experiences, encouraging each other as a united witness in caring for God's creation and reflecting a wide variety of church traditions. [www.ecen.org](http://www.ecen.org)

**Friends of the Earth** is a national campaigning organisation and network. [www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk)

**Green Electricity** gives information on renewable energy, the various suppliers available and their tariffs. [www.greenelectricity.org](http://www.greenelectricity.org)

**Greenpeace** is a high profile international campaigning organisation. [www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org)

**John Ray Initiative** is an educational charity organising events and courses and providing resources and briefing papers which connect the environment, science and Christianity. [www.jri.org.uk](http://www.jri.org.uk)

**Operation Noah** is the climate change campaign of the UK churches. [www.operationnoah.org](http://www.operationnoah.org)

**Recycle-more** is a website giving information about where locally you can deposit materials for recycling. [www.recycle-more.co.uk](http://www.recycle-more.co.uk)

**Shrinking the Footprint:** for information on the Church of England's national environmental campaign go to [www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org](http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org) .

**Southampton University – Environmental Dept working in the Dept of Civil Engineering** works with industry and governments to address, among other things, environmental protection; resource management; and mitigating the effects of climate change. [www.civil.soton.ac.uk/](http://www.civil.soton.ac.uk/)

**TEAR Fund** Christian action with the world's poor means living responsibly in a world of climate change. TEAR Fund has ideas, links and helpful ideas. [www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org)