



## DIOCESAN SYNOD

### Becoming an Eco Diocese - some FAQ's

#### Why should we become an Eco Diocese?

At the last Diocesan Synod there was enthusiasm for the Eco Church initiative. If we register our intent to become an Eco Diocese this will help ensure that our care for creation is embedded in the life and work of Southwark. So far, 18 Dioceses in the Church of England have registered with five Dioceses receiving awards, including Salisbury, Winchester, Guildford and Birmingham.

For further information about ECO Dioceses, visit <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/eco-diocese/>

#### How do we become an Eco Diocese?

We are well on the way, having achieved most of the first four steps:

- (1) *Register our intention to become an Eco Diocese.* This should be by Diocesan Synod resolution. The initial resolution commits us ONLY to engaging with the process below. There are no cost implications at this stage.
- (2) *Commission an individual or group to coordinate progress within the diocese.* We already have an Environmental Working Group, chaired by Bishop Richard with the Diocesan Environment Officer, the Area Environment Representatives and two members of the C of E's Environment Working Group on it.
- (3) *Have an environmental policy that has been agreed by Bishop's Council and Diocesan Synod.* We agreed an Environment Policy in 2014:  
<http://southwark.anglican.org/information/resources/#environment>

It may be time to review the policy, given that it is five years old. Eco-Diocese request that 'this should include points on travel, the environmental maintenance of vicarages, and a commitment to reducing diocesan carbon emissions.'

- (4) *Gain the appropriate levels of local church registrations and Awards for Eco Church:*
  - *Bronze Eco Diocese: 10% of local churches registered; 5% of local churches awarded -*

Our registrations/awards are:

Croydon	17 registered	3 Bronze	2 Silver
Kingston	20 registered	3 Bronze	1 Silver
Woolwich	8 registered	1 Bronze	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45 registered</b>	<b>7 Bronze</b>	<b>3 Silver</b>

% (of 341

local churches)      13                      2                      1

So we have work to do in terms both of registration and awards.

### **Does it require a large commitment?**

The remaining steps would require more involvement from Diocesan officers, but they are all very achievable and would enable us to ensure that our aspirations are matched by real progress:

**(5)** *Achieve the relevant Eco Church Award level in relation to its Diocesan House or Office (where appropriate) and Land (where appropriate):* Given that four Dioceses already have awards, it would be good to seek advice from them on the best way to proceed with this. Lambeth Palace have also recently been assessed and achieved an award.

**(6)** *Embed environmental issues within the curricula of its ongoing ministerial education.* St Augustine's College is actively including environmental concerns within its curriculum.

**(7)** *Manage diocesan investments ethically* - the C of E is already participating in a global initiative, the Transition Pathway Initiative, which is making real progress in the shift to a zero-carbon economy. CCLA manage their investments in accordance with the TPI and the C of E's ethical investment guidelines.

**(8)** *Encourage greater environmental action, including promoting Eco Church as a helpful tool*

- *Established the habit of recording and celebrating individual environmental initiatives*

### **Does it cost anything?**

There is no charge for registration. The experience of many churches is that moving towards green energy suppliers and taking green initiatives often saves money.

For further information visit <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/eco-diocese/>

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On behalf of the Southwark Diocese Environment Working Group -  
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