

Self-Assessment Questionnaire

You can roadmap your Eco Church journey with this self-assessment questionnaire to help identify what you have already achieved and where to focus your next steps. Please don't expect to "get it right" in every aspect and on every question, we're all learning, exploring and working together. The aim of the assessment is for your church to assess where it is at and to encourage further action in five areas of congregational life:

- Worship and teaching
- Church buildings and facilities
- Church land and grounds
- Community and global engagement
- Sustainable lifestyle practices

Depending on which of these areas your church would like to focus on, resources and initiatives are available from the [Eco Church NZ website](#) to support your goals.

If you have any feedback / ideas for this questionnaire or actions that you would like to share then please get in touch with us at new.zealand@arocha.org. We'd appreciate hearing from you.

WORSHIP & TEACHING

1. Special Sundays relating to caring for God's earth (e.g. Season of Creation, Environment Sunday, Care for Creation Sunday etc.) are celebrated in our church:
 - At least annually
 - Less often
 - Never
 - Need to find out / explore more
2. The hymns and songs (and liturgies if used) in our church services enable us to celebrate God's creation:
 - At least quarterly
 - Less often
 - Never
 - Need to find out / explore more
 - Not applicable
3. Our church prays for environmental issues:
 - Weekly
 - Monthly
 - Occasionally
 - Never
4. Caring for God's earth is preached in our church:
 - At least annually

- Less often
 - Never
 - Need to find out / explore more
5. Our church hosts guest speakers from other organisations (e.g. A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand, Tearfund) to talk about environmental and sustainability issues:
- At least annually
 - Less often
 - Never
 - Need to find out / explore more
6. Caring for God's earth features as a teaching theme in our church's youth work:
- At least annually
 - Less often
 - Never
 - Need to find out / explore more
 - Not applicable
7. Caring for God's earth features as a teaching theme in our church's children's work:
- At least annually
 - Less often
 - Never
 - Need to find out / explore more
 - Not applicable
8. Caring for God's earth features as a focus of small group study in our church:
- At least annually
 - Less often
 - Never
 - Need to find out / explore more
 - Not applicable
9. Our church's communications (e.g. newsletters, service sheets, magazines, website, social media etc.) include items relating to the theme of caring for God's earth:
- At least annually
 - Less often
 - Never
 - Need to find out / explore more
 - Not applicable

10. The relationship between Christ, creation, and daily discipleship is integrated into the worship, teaching, and activities of my church:
- Consistently
 - Haphazardly
 - Rarely
 - Is not a focus
11. Our communion supplies show that we care for the environment (e.g. using reusable communion cups, organic wine, organic bread/wafers):
- Yes
 - No
 - Need to find out / explore more
12. The church leadership has made a formal commitment to improving the environmental credentials of our church by endorsing the undertaking of work towards becoming an Eco Church by joining the Eco Church NZ network or through some other pledge or commitment scheme:
- Yes
 - No
 - Need to find out / explore more

BUILDINGS & FACILITIES

1. Our church is responsible for the premises in which it meets:
- Yes
 - No
2. We have measured our energy use and calculated the carbon footprint of our church premises:
- Yes
 - No
 - Need to find out / explore more
3. We have set sufficient targets for reducing the carbon footprint of our church premises and achieving year-on-year improvements in energy efficiency:
- Yes
 - No
 - Need to find out / explore more
4. We offset the carbon footprint of our church premises for those things we can't reduce:
- Yes
 - No
 - Need to find out / explore more

5. Our church is a customer of a company that only generates electricity from renewable sources.
In New Zealand, if you get your electricity from an electricity retailer, you are not able to guarantee that 100% of your electricity is from renewable sources as all generating companies feed the power they produce (from renewable and non-renewable sources) into the national grid. But you can support an electricity retailer that only generates electricity from renewable sources.
Please take into account all buildings owned by the church e.g. vicarage, manse, other properties.
- Yes
 - Some
 - No
 - Need to find out / explore more
 - Not applicable (no external electricity supply)
6. Our church creates its own electricity from a renewable source – for example through solar panels, mini hydro station or wind turbines.
Please take into account all buildings owned by the church e.g. vicarage, manse, other properties.
- Yes
 - Some
 - No
 - Need to find out / explore more
7. Our church uses natural gas for heating, heating water or cooking.
Natural gas is described as a "transition fuel" that cuts the use of coal because of its lower emissions, however, on a life-cycle basis, any carbon dioxide reduction benefits would be partially negated by leakage of methane, the main component of natural gas.
Please take into account all buildings owned by the church e.g. vicarage, manse, other properties.
- Yes
 - Some
 - No
 - Need to find out / explore more
8. Our church uses LPG for heating, heating water or cooking.
LPG is a by-product of refining petroleum or "wet" natural gas, and is almost entirely derived from fossil fuel sources, being manufactured during the refining of petroleum (crude oil), or extracted from petroleum or natural gas streams as they emerge from the ground. In NZ LPG comes from on and off-shore gas fields in Taranaki
Please take into account all buildings owned by the church e.g. vicarage, manse, other properties.
- Yes
 - Some
 - No
 - Need to find out / explore more
9. Our church premises are insulated as follows:

List your different building areas below	All walls, underfloor and ceilings	All walls only	All underfloor only	All ceilings only	Some walls, underfloor and ceilings	Not at all	Not possible
MAIN CHURCH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CHURCH HALL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CHURCH OFFICE	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
VICARAGE	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. Our church premises are double-glazed as follows:

List your different building areas below	Full double-glazing	Some double-glazing	Full secondary glazing	Some secondary glazing	Not at all	Not possible
MAIN CHURCH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CHURCH HALL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CHURCH OFFICE	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
VICARAGE	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. The lighting in our main church premises uses energy-efficient light bulbs as follows:

List your different building areas below	All LED lighting	Some LED and some low energy lighting	All low energy lighting	Some LED, some low energy and some non-low energy lighting	No LED or low energy lighting	Need to find out / explore more
MAIN CHURCH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CHURCH HALL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CHURCH OFFICE	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
VICARAGE	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. Our church has a policy designed to limit the amount of energy consumed by floodlighting, billboard, signage lighting and/or security lighting around our church premises:

Yes

- No
- Need to find out / explore more
- Not applicable (no floodlights / billboard / signage / security lighting)

13. The water supply to our church premises is metered:

- Yes (completely)
- Yes (partially)
- No
- Need to find out / explore more

14. Water saving features are installed and used on our church premises (e.g. 'grey water' systems, rainwater harvesting, water butts etc.):

- Yes
- No
- Need to find out / explore more

15. The toilet cisterns on our church premises are fitted with dual-flush buttons or other water-saving devices:

- All
- Some
- None
- Need to find out / explore more

16. We have installed a composting/waterless toilet on our church premises:

A composting toilet cannot be used in urban areas where a mains sewerage system is available. Under the Building Code, if a mains sewerage connection is available, toilets must be connected to it unless the building consent authority provides a waiver.

- Yes
- No
- Need to find out / explore more
- Not applicable (mains sewerage system)

17. Recycled toilet paper is provided on our church premises:

- Exclusively
- Sometimes
- No
- Need to find out / explore more

18. The cleaning products used around our church premises are environmentally-friendly:

- All
- Some
- None

- Need to find out / explore more
19. Our church has a policy on the use of disposables (e.g. paper cups and plates etc.):
- Never use disposables
 - Occasionally use disposables
 - If used, they must be biodegradable or recyclable
 - Need to find out / explore more
20. We are reducing our paper usage (e.g. through double-sided copying/printing etc.):
- Always
 - Sometimes
 - Not at all
 - Need to find out / explore more
21. Our church administration uses recycled paper:
- Always
 - Sometimes
 - Not at all
 - Need to find out / explore more
22. In the event of the need to undertake a building/refurbishment project, our church would insist on best practice in sustainable building design, construction and operation:
- Yes
 - No
 - Need to find out / explore more
 - Not applicable
23. Cycle racks are available and visible on our church premises:
- Yes
 - No
24. Recycling facilities are available on our church premises. Select all that applies:
- Yes – Separate recycling bins to encourage separation of recycling primarily for use by church members and users of the premises
 - Yes – Soft plastics recycling (if available in your area)
 - Yes – Specialised recycling centre for use by the local community (e.g. setting up a recycling collection space for used ball pens, bread tags)
 - No – Just general rubbish bins

CHURCH LAND & GROUNDS

1. Does your church have influence over any land? (e.g. church grounds, church garden, burial grounds)

- Yes
- No

2. Our church has established a management plan for the land for which we are responsible:

- Yes
- No
- Need to find out / explore more
- Not applicable (insufficient land)

3. The land at our church is managed for the encouragement of native wildlife (birds, animals and plants):

- Yes
- No
- Need to find out / explore more
- Not applicable

4. We encourage native wildlife on our church land through provision of the following:

- Bird feeder
- Bug hotel
- Wildflower meadows
- Other
- Not applicable

5. Stocked wildlife feeding stations are present on our church land (e.g. bird feeders, bird tables):

- Yes, all year round
- Yes, winter only
- No
- Need to find out / explore more

6. Our church land contains a pond or wetland area that is good for wildlife:

- Yes
- No
- Need to find out / explore more
- Not applicable (no space for a pond)

7. We grow plants on our land that benefit birds, bees, butterflies etc.:

- Yes
- No
- Need to find out / explore more
- Not applicable (no space to grow plants)

8. Our church implements predator control on our church land / sites:

- Yes
- No
- Need to find out / explore more
- Not applicable (no space to grow plants)

9. Our church maintains an area of land for native wildflowers:

- Yes
- No
- Need to find out / explore more
- Not applicable (no space)

10. Our church has researched and established a mowing regime appropriate to the conservation of the grassland and wildlife present:

- Yes
- No
- Need to find out / explore more
- Not applicable (no grass to mow)

11. Our church avoids the use of harmful chemicals (pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers) in the management of our land (excluding paths and driveways):

- Yes
- No
- Need to find out / explore more
- Not applicable

12. Our church participates in responsible native tree planting on our land:

- Yes
- No
- Need to find out / explore more
- Not applicable

13. Our church undertakes wildlife (birds, animals and plants) surveys on our land:

- Yes, annually or at regular intervals
- Occasionally
- Never
- Need to find out / explore more

14. We grow fruit and vegetables on our land (including in planters, window boxes etc. as well as in a community garden/allotment):

- Yes
- No
- Need to find out / explore more

Not applicable (insufficient land)

15. Composting facilities are available on our church land:

- Yes
- No
- Need to find out / explore more
- Not applicable

16. Our church actively encourages members to use church land for recreation/contemplation (e.g. picnics, prayer etc.):

- Yes
- No
- Need to find out / explore more
- Not applicable (insufficient land)

17. Our church actively encourages members of the local community to use the church land for recreation/contemplation:

- Yes
- No
- Need to find out / explore more
- Not applicable (insufficient land)

COMMUNITY & GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

1. Our church promotes awareness of tangata whenua aspirations and supports Treaty of Waitangi commitments to tangata whenua as kaitiaki of our environment (e.g. protect Ihumātao, protect Kaipara Moana):

- Yes
- No
- Need to find out / explore more

2. Our church organises events providing an opportunity for local people to engage with local leaders on local environmental issues (e.g. local leaders, local businesses, local MPs, local councillors):

- At least annually
- Less often
- Never
- Need to find out / explore more / explore more

3. Our church (either alone or as part of a local network) engages with our local MP, council, and Select Committees on environmental matters:

- At least annually
- Less often

- Never
 - Need to find out / explore more
4. Our church arranges for local environmentalists to speak in our services:
- At least annually
 - Less often
 - Never
 - Need to find out / explore more
5. Our church (either alone or as part of a local network) works with or support local sustainability movements (e.g. Transition Town, Sustainability Trust in Wellington, Live Lightly in Auckland etc.):
- Yes
 - No
 - Need to find out / explore more
6. Our church (either alone or as part of a local network) organises environmental awareness-raising events (e.g. film evenings, Fairtrade events etc.):
- Yes
 - No
 - Need to find out / explore more
7. Our church is regularly involved with local conservation work (e.g. local neighbourhood conservation project, Predator Free communities, A Rocha local group's working bee):
- Yes, some members are involved
 - No
 - Need to find out / explore more
8. At least some of our church members (either alone or as part of a local network) have organised and/or participated in a community clean-up project (e.g. local beach clean-up, planting project, local community garden):
- At least annually
 - Less often
 - Never
 - Need to find out / explore more
9. Our church (either alone or as part of a local network) hosts a green fair, showcasing local produce and highlighting local environmental issues:
- At least annually
 - Less often
 - Never
 - Need to find out / explore more

10. Our church organises events providing an opportunity for local people to get out and enjoy God's earth in our local area (e.g. walks, cycle rides etc.):
- Regularly
 - Occasionally
 - Never
 - Need to find out / explore more
11. Our church either provides or supports a local car-share scheme and/or encourage members to carpool to church:
- Yes
 - No
 - Need to find out / explore more
12. Users of our church premises are encouraged to minimise resource use (e.g. people are trained in reducing energy use, notices about turning off lights, recycling and waste minimisation are displayed etc.):
- Yes
 - No
 - Need to find out / explore more
13. Our church actively promotes Eco Church NZ and actively participate in the network through the sharing of stories and resources to other churches:
- Yes
 - No
 - Need to find out / explore more
14. Our church has committed to pray and support a specific overseas environmental project / issue:
- Yes
 - No
 - Need to find out / explore more
15. Our church participates in regular sustainability initiatives (e.g. WWF's annual Earth Hour event, Plastic Free July, Conservation Week):
- Yes
 - No
 - Need to find out / explore more
16. Our church participates in campaigns concerning national environmental issues:
- At least annually
 - Less often
 - Never
 - Need to find out / explore more

17. Our church participates in campaigns concerning global environmental issues:
- At least annually
 - Less often
 - Never
 - Need to find out / explore more
18. Our church financially supports an environmental charity:
- Yes
 - No
 - Need to find out / explore more
19. Our church supports and serves Fairtrade products:
- Yes
 - No
 - Need to find out / explore more
20. Our church explores and creates awareness about eating sustainably for the environment – e.g. locally grown, organic, animal-welfare friendly, low-carbon, Fairtrade, ethically sourced food:
- Always
 - Sometimes
 - Hardly ever
 - Need to find out / explore more
21. Whenever possible, meals provided by our church use food that is sustainable for our environment:
- Always
 - Sometimes
 - Hardly ever
 - Need to find out / explore more
22. Whenever possible, meals provided by our church include a vegetarian and /or vegan option:
- Always
 - Sometimes
 - Hardly ever
 - Need to find out / explore more
 - Not applicable (no meals provided by the church)
23. Our church takes steps to reduce food waste from our events (e.g. through composting, minimising leftovers at church meals, partnering with a local food waste scheme):
- Always
 - Sometimes

- Hardly ever
- Need to find out / explore more
- Not applicable (no meals provided by the church)

SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE PRACTICES

1. Our church has appointed a group to champion the cause of our church community becoming more environmentally sustainable:
 - Yes
 - No
 - Need to find out / explore more

2. Walking and cycling to church services and events is promoted in our church:
 - Often
 - Occasionally
 - Never
 - Need to find out / explore more

3. The reduction of car use is encouraged in our church:
 - Yes
 - No
 - Need to find out / explore more

4. The members of our church receive encouragement to undertake a personal carbon footprint audit / environmental lifestyle audit:
 - At least annually
 - Less often
 - Never
 - Need to find out / explore more

5. Our church encourages members to reduce their personal energy consumption:
 - Regularly
 - Occasionally
 - Never
 - Need to find out / explore more

6. Our church encourages members to limit their waste by adhering to the principles of reduce, re-use, recycle:
 - Regularly
 - Occasionally
 - Never

- Need to find out / explore more
7. Our church hosts activities and/or events that facilitate the recycling and/or reuse of goods (e.g. clothes swap events, opportunity shops, used books sales):
- Regularly
- Occasionally
- Never
- Need to find out / explore more
8. Personal use and consumption of locally grown, organic, animal-welfare friendly, Fairtrade and/or low carbon food is encouraged and promoted in our church:
- Yes
- No
- Need to find out / explore more
9. Our church runs or partners with other organisations or supports other organisations in running a food cooperative (e.g. vegetable cooperative) that enables members to bulk buy locally grown produce at wholesale prices:
- Yes
- No
- Need to find out / explore more
10. The ethical investment of personal savings is encouraged at our church:
- Yes
- No
- Need to find out / explore more
11. Our church funds are ethically invested (e.g. current account and/or investments):
- Wholly
- Partially
- Not at all
- Need to find out / explore more
- Not applicable (no funds to invest)
12. Practical lifestyle tips and advice on caring for God's earth are included in our church newsletters/on our church website:
- Regularly
- Occasionally
- Never
- Need to find out / explore more