**SELF-ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET:**

*This worksheet invites you to consider a range of aspects of church life and mission in the light of your commitment to care for God’s creation as a church and to encourage further action. It helps your church identify what you have already achieved and where to focus your next steps. There is no expectation to answer every question or to “get it right” in every aspect, as we’re all learning, exploring and journeying together.*

*Use this worksheet when you first join Eco Church NZ as a tool for planning and inspiration. Revisit the worksheet every now and then (perhaps annually) to celebrate what you have achieved and to identify priorities moving ahead. You are not required to send in this worksheet to A Rocha.*

*We’ve used the following categories in this worksheet:*

* *Leadership, Worship and Teaching*
* *Church Buildings and Facilities*
* *Church Land and Grounds*
* *Community and Global Engagement*
* *Sustainable Living*

*The Eco Church NZ website has lots of* [*resources*](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/resources-by-topic) *with more specific suggestions and* [*stories*](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/stories) *to inspire action. We are continually adding to these resources and stories, so please check back regularly.*

*If you have any feedback / ideas for this worksheet or stories that you would like to share, then please get in touch with us at* [*new.zealand@arocha.org*](mailto:new.zealand@arocha.org)*. We’d appreciate hearing from you.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Church:** |  |
| **Review date:** |  |
| **People involved in this review:** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Leadership, Worship and Teaching** | Our leadership, worship and teaching leads people into praise and relationship with God who is Creator and Redeemer of all. |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Strategy | We do this already. When? How? | Let’s explore this. How? | Not relevant for us at the moment because… |
| Our church sees care for the Earth as part of Christ’s mission. |  |  |  |
| Our church feels called to grow in faith through caring for creation. |  |  |  |
| Church leadership identifies caring for creation in mission planning. |  |  |  |
| Our church has an Environmental Policy. |  |  |  |
| We have a Creation Care team. |  |  |  |
| The [hymns and songs](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/songs-worship) (and liturgies if used) in our church services enable us to celebrate God’s creation. |  |  |  |
| We utilise nature and natural objects, images and symbols to invite people into worship. |  |  |  |
| We bring adoration, confession and intercession for creation into our [prayers](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/prayer). |  |  |  |
| [Sermons](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/sermons) connect scripture with ecology and inspire stewardship and sustainability. |  |  |  |
| Care for creation is part of our [children’s ministry](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/curriculum). |  |  |  |
| Care for creation is part of our youth ministry. |  |  |  |
| We encourage our children and youth to participate in camps that encourage care for creation (e.g. SUNZ’s E3 and Sustain Camps). |  |  |  |
| Our [small groups](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/small-group-resources) explore environmental issues and faith |  |  |  |
| We host workshops to explore environmental issues and faith. |  |  |  |
| Special services highlight creation care (e.g. [Season of Creation](https://seasonofcreation.org/), [Climate Sunday](https://www.climatesunday.org/), [Green Communion](https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/green-communion-2020/)). |  |  |  |
| We invite guest speakers to speak on environmental and sustainability issues. |  |  |  |
| Eco-friendly baptisms, weddings and funerals. |  |  |  |
| Worship elements (e.g. communion) respect creation. |  |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Church Buildings and Facilities** | Church buildings and facilities are a tangible expression of sustainability and good stewardship. |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Strategy | We do this already. When? How? | Let’s explore this. How? | Not relevant for us at the moment because… |
| [**WASTE**](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/waste) |  |  |  |
| It is easy for everyone to do the right thing with rubbish and recycling. |  |  |  |
| We do regular waste checks. |  |  |  |
| We monitor waste volumes. |  |  |  |
| Bins are available throughout our facilities for organic waste & recycling, with good signage. |  |  |  |
| We have separate recycling bins to encourage separation of recycling and good signage to accompany them. |  |  |  |
| We do soft plastics recycling (if available in our area). |  |  |  |
| We have purchasing policies that emphasise waste reduction. |  |  |  |
| All church events have a waste reduction policy. |  |  |  |
| 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). |  |  |  |
| [**ENERGY**](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/energy) |  |  |  |
| Energy use of buildings is measured. |  |  |  |
| We have plans and targets to reduce our energy use. |  |  |  |
| We measure our church’s [carbon footprint](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/carbon-calculators). |  |  |  |
| We have plans and targets to reduce our carbon footprint. |  |  |  |
| We participate in carbon off-setting for things we can’t reduce. |  |  |  |
| We buy our electricity from electricity retailer that favours electricity from renewable sources. Consider all your church properties. |  |  |  |
| We generate our own electricity from a renewable source (e.g. solar panels, wind turbines). |  |  |  |
| If we currently use natural gas, we will explore options for cleaner gas such as biogas, bioLPG or explore conversion to using other renewable energy sources. |  |  |  |
| Our insulation is excellent: floor, ceiling, walls, windows. Consider all your buildings. |  |  |  |
| Our lighting is energy efficient. Consider all your buildings. |  |  |  |
| Our church has a policy designed to limit the amount of energy consumed by floodlighting, billboard, signage lighting and/or security lighting (e.g. sensors, LED lighting). |  |  |  |
| [**WATER**](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/water) |  |  |  |
| Water use is monitored. |  |  |  |
| We have strategies to minimise water use (e.g. water efficient toilets, dual flush toilets, fixing leaks). |  |  |  |
| We have water saving features installed and in use (e.g. grey water systems, rainwater harvesting). |  |  |  |
| Our church is a water refill station (see [RefillNZ](http://www.refillnz.org.nz)). |  |  |  |
| **FACILITIES** |  |  |  |
| All those who use our facilities are aware of and comply with our environmental policies. |  |  |  |
| 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). |  |  |  |
| We organise waste management teams for large events at our church to help people do the right thing with their waste. |  |  |  |
| [Building and renovation projects](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/sustainable-buildings) have high priority on sustainability. |  |  |  |
| Cycle racks are available at church. |  |  |  |
| **PURCHASING** |  |  |  |
| We have [purchasing policies](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/purchasing) that emphasise waste reduction and sustainability. |  |  |  |
| Cleaning products are environmentally-friendly. |  |  |  |
| Recycled toilet paper is used. |  |  |  |
| Photocopying and printing uses recycled paper, and is minimised. |  |  |  |
| We reduce paper use through double-sided printing. |  |  |  |
| We avoid unnecessary plastics such as laminating or corflute temporary signage. |  |  |  |
| We avoid buying and using disposables cutlery and crockery at church. |  |  |  |
| We avoid buying items with lots of packaging and look for refillable or bulk options or homemade options. |  |  |  |
| We support and serve Fairtrade products. |  |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Church Land and Grounds** | Our church land and grounds are a tangible expression of sustainability and good stewardship. |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Strategy | We do this already. When? How? | Let’s explore this. How? | Not relevant for us at the moment because… |
| **LAND** |  |  |  |
| Our church has established a management plan for the land for which we are responsible (e.g. church grounds, church garden, burial grounds, car parks). |  |  |  |
| We have considered caring or making an impact on other land nearby (vacant plots, road berms). |  |  |  |
| Outdoor spaces are beautiful, inviting and [green](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/green-spaces). |  |  |  |
| We grow fruit and vegetables on church land. |  |  |  |
| We have a [community garden](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/community-gardens). |  |  |  |
| We proactively grow native plants on church grounds. |  |  |  |
| We participate in responsible native tree planting on our land. |  |  |  |
| We encourage [wildlife](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/wildlife) on church grounds (e.g. bug hotels, bee- and bird-friendly plants, bird feeder). |  |  |  |
| Our church land contains a pond or wetland area that is good for wildlife. |  |  |  |
| We do pest-control and predator trapping on church grounds. |  |  |  |
| We avoid harmful chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers). |  |  |  |
| We have a [compost system or worm farm](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/compost). |  |  |  |
| Our church undertakes wildlife (birds, animals and plants) surveys on our land. |  |  |  |
| Our church actively encourages members to use church land for recreation / contemplation (e.g. picnics, prayer). |  |  |  |
| Our church invites the local community to use church land / gardens for recreation / contemplation. |  |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Community and Global Engagement** | Our church’s mission includes caring for God’s earth in partnership with others locally and globally. |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Strategy | We do this already. When? How? | Let’s explore this. How? | Not relevant for us at the moment because… |
| We’re exploring creative ways to get people on board. |  |  |  |
| Our world mission and social justice work connects with environmental concerns. |  |  |  |
| We financially support environmental initiatives, missions and charities. |  |  |  |
| Our church funds are [ethically invested](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/ethical-investment). |  |  |  |
| Our website and social media express our eco church values. |  |  |  |
| We communicate and inspire care for creation through a range of media (e.g. newsletters, magazines, online). |  |  |  |
| We celebrate care of creation achievements in lots of ways. |  |  |  |
| We value tangata whenua and are building relationships locally. |  |  |  |
| We promote awareness of tangata whenua aspirations and support Treaty of Waitangi commitments to tangata whenua as kaitiaki of our environment |  |  |  |
| We care for a particular place through planting, trapping, etc. |  |  |  |
| We work in partnership with [local conservation groups](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/practical-conservation) (e.g. beach/river clean-up, A Rocha local groups, Predator Free communities). |  |  |  |
| We are linked with creation care resourcing networks (e.g. denominational creation care units, A Rocha) |  |  |  |
| We participate in community events that promote sustainability. |  |  |  |
| We host community events that promote sustainability (e.g. repair café, clothes swap days, green fair, op shops, used books sales). |  |  |  |
| We host [education and engagement](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/education-engagement) events that increase environmental awareness (e.g. film screenings, discussion evenings) |  |  |  |
| We organise events providing an opportunity for members and the local community to get out and enjoy God’s earth in our local area (e.g. walks, cycle rides etc.) |  |  |  |
| Our church is a recycling collection hub for hard to recycle items like bread tags, used ball pens, batteries etc. used by members and the local community. |  |  |  |
| We engage with community leaders, groups and local businesses on environmental and sustainability issues. |  |  |  |
| We organise events providing opportunities for members and local community to engage with local leaders on local environmental issues (e.g. local leaders, local businesses, local MPs, local councillors). |  |  |  |
| We support community gardens and food co-operatives. |  |  |  |
| We provide or support a local car-share scheme to make car-sharing accessible to the local community. |  |  |  |
| Our church (either alone or as part of a local network) engages in [advocacy](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/advocacy) with our local MP, council, and/or Select Committees on environmental matters such as… |  |  |  |
| We promote and support the work of local / community conservation organisations / projects such as … |  |  |  |
| We promote and support the work of global conservation organisations such as … |  |  |  |
| Our church participates in regular [sustainability initiatives](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/global-campaigns) (e.g. WWF’s annual Earth Hour event, Plastic Free July, Conservation Week). |  |  |  |
| We actively promote Eco Church NZ and actively participate in the network through the sharing of stories and resources with other churches. |  |  |  |
| Our church has committed to pray and support a specific local / overseas environmental project / issue. |  |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sustainable Living** | Church members are inspired to be part of the solutions to global problems, in everyday life, as followers of Jesus. |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Strategy | We do this already. When? How? | Let’s explore this. How? | Not relevant for us at the moment because… |
| [Sustainable lifestyles](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/sustainable-lifestyles) are encouraged in positive, cheerful and grace-filled ways. |  |  |  |
| Our church explores and creates awareness about [eating sustainably](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/food) for the environment - e.g. locally grown, organic, animal-welfare friendly, low-carbon, Fairtrade, ethically sourced food. |  |  |  |
| Whenever possible, meals provided by our church use food that is sustainable for our environment. |  |  |  |
| Whenever possible, meals provided by our church include a vegetarian and /or vegan option. |  |  |  |
| Whānau are encouraged and supported to reduce waste at home. |  |  |  |
| Whānau are encouraged and supported to reduce energy consumption at home. |  |  |  |
| We promote opportunities to re-use and repair items (e.g. men’s shed, clothes swap, book sales). |  |  |  |
| We encourage members to consider [ethical investment](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/ethical-investment). |  |  |  |
| We normalise [cycling](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/cycling) at our church (e.g. ‘bike to church Sunday’, bike racks at church) |  |  |  |
| We encourage walking to church for those who live nearby. |  |  |  |
| We encourage members to make our [transport](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/transport) more sustainable (e.g. carpooling, public transport, electric vehicles). |  |  |  |
| We encourage members to connect with nature. |  |  |  |
| We encourage members to undertake a [personal carbon footprint audit](https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/carbon-calculators) / environmental lifestyle audit. |  |  |  |
| Practical lifestyle tips and advice on caring for God’s earth are included in our church newsletters and communications. |  |  |  |

**SETTING PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:**

Looking back through our Eco Church Overview…

**Where do we see the hand of God at work?**

**What should we be celebrating and sharing with others?**

**What are our areas of strengths and where do we have the most skills?**

**What do we feel called to invest time and energy in at the moment?**

**What are our goals for the coming year?**

**Who is going to do what?**

**What stories could we share with the Eco Church NZ network?**