



Eco-Congregation Scotland Second Award Application Form

Please complete the details below.

In addition to this application form it would be helpful, if possible, to put together evidence of your activities – such as orders of service, church magazine pieces, photographs, posters, notes/minutes of meetings, reflections from members, press articles, etc. You may wish to send a few of these in with the application form; alternatively, they could be made available to assessors on the day.

We would be happy to respond to any queries that you have about the award process.

Once this application form has been completed, please send, along with any accompanying material, to:

Email manager@ecocongregationscotland.org

Post Eco-Congregation Scotland, 121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN

Eco-Congregation details

Name and location of church	St. Peter's RC Church Edinburgh
Denomination	Roman Catholic
Church address (including postcode)	77 Falcon Avenue Edinburgh EH10 4AN

Your Eco-Congregation contact person

Name	Liz Brown
Telephone number	0131 447 7286 07581562458
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Application date

October 2016

The second Eco-Congregation award is given to churches that have continued with and pursued new initiatives in each of these areas:

- Helping the whole congregation to make the link between their Christian faith and environmental concerns ([*Ideas for Action - Spiritual Living*](#)).
- Taking practical action in the church and/or church grounds ([*Ideas for Action - Practical Living*](#)).
- Having a positive impact on and/or working with their local or wider community. ([*Ideas for Action - Global Living*](#)).
- Measuring the carbon footprint of their church buildings and have plans to reduce it.

Churches must have undertaken one reasonably substantive piece of work or a number of smaller projects in each area. When there is overlap, for example a church involving the local community in improvements to their grounds, the church will be given credit for taking action in both areas.

In addition to the above criteria, we ask the assessors to look for:

- Implementation of the recommendations made at the first award assessment, unless there are good reasons why this has not been possible.
- A continuation/deepening of existing projects (unless there is a good reason why they have finished). These should be more than just maintenance and demonstrate steady growth.
- New projects
- Evidence of reaching out to others e.g. through more local community involvement, involving other churches in the programme and / or supporting the local [Eco-Congregation network](#).
- In addition, the congregation should be able to show that they have taken steps to make a measureable reduction in the carbon footprint of their church buildings.

The Eco-Congregation process

Important note

Eco-Congregation Scotland aims to offer something to every church, regardless of size, location, denomination or circumstances. Hence, each church will be assessed according to its own circumstances and potential.

Please use extra sheets of paper if required.

The Eco-Congregation involvement process

Do you have a Green Team / eco group which meets regularly? Y ☐ N ☐

If yes, how many people serve on the team / group?

5

Please let us know the approximate number of people that will attend the assessment.

Approx 10

Which groups within the church or outside the church do they represent?

Details:

PPC, Christian Aid, Mary's Meals.

To be invited, and as available:

SCIAF, Fairtrade, Freshstart, Garden, Welcoming team, SVDP, Hospitality, possibly also representatives from St. Columba's and St. Albert's (mentees)

If no, which teams or groups promote Eco-Congregation work within the church?

Details:

SCIAF, Freshstart, SVDP, Hospitality, Gardening Team, Flower Arrangement Team, Christian Aid, Mary's Meals, Justice and Peace. We are a Fairtrade Parish

What is the approximate number of meetings per year?

4

Do you regularly measure, record and review progress?
(for example, do you take minutes at your meetings?)

Y ☐ N ☐

Do you attend your local network group (if there is one)?

Y ☐ N ☐

Is your environmental work ongoing?

Y ☐ N ☐

If yes, please give one example of your continuing programme:

Details:

Communication

Do you have a mechanism for informing the whole congregation about work planned or undertaken (e.g. notice board / church magazine / website)?

Details:

Newsletter, Noticeboard, Facebook Page.

Parish Magazine (December 2015 Climate Justice Baton COP21)

Website (provided link to speakers of Love God, Love God's World evening September 2015).

An annual report on parish activities is prepared in booklet form for distribution to parishioners.

Have any steps been taken to publicise the environmental work of the church to the wider community (e.g. articles in local newspaper)?

Details:

COP21 Baton was received at St. Peter's on Sunday 15 November 2015. This event was reported in the Scottish Catholic Observer Friday 27 November. It also featured on the Eco-Congregation Scotland website and on its Twitter feed. It was covered on the Facebook page for the Archdiocese of St. Andrew's and Edinburgh. An article was featured in the Parish Magazine and photos were displayed at the back of the Church.

Talks by Shelagh McGhee planned for Business Matters – a forum for the business community in Edinburgh, entitled "Everybody's Business" "Better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

Informally, by word of mouth.

Recommendations from the previous award

If recommendations were made at your last assessment please give details on how you have worked on these following on from your last award.

Details:

We were proud of the fact that First Award was an outright award. No recommendations were made.

Spiritual Living

Helping the whole congregation to make the link between their Christian faith and environmental concerns

Please list the activities undertaken in this area and assess the impact that they have had on helping the congregation understand environmental care as part of Christian discipleship. Please highlight any new initiatives since your last assessment. It is not sufficient to only include Sunday worship. For example, you could include special services, Bible study groups, etc.

Details:

- Recycling of palms into ashes (2014,2015,2016)
- Harvest festival – decorated church, special Harvest display of produce including donations from local community, Harvest reflected in Liturgy, celebration in courtyard for all ages. (2014, 2015 – In 2015 Harvest Festival weekend coincided with St. Peter's doing Doors Open weekend, which attracted over 350 visitors.)
- Eco-Baton (COP 21) received during Mass on Sunday 15 November 2015. To an explanatory commentary and music, the baton was passed down the central aisle along a chain of our young people before being handed to our priest. The whole congregation then said the special prayer composed for the occasion by the Chaplain to Eco-Congregation Scotland. In preparing the young people for the event, we held an Eco Night (see below)
- Eco Night for Youth Rock a Sunday evening meeting for (S1-S6) parishioners. This helped to explain the Eco Baton event above. We played an Eco Game suggested by CAFOD, watched an animation directed at young people of Laudato Si and did an audit of my plastic bag collection! It briefed the young people to take the baton into the group for younger children (Children's Liturgy) during Mass on Sunday 15th to explain what the baton was all about, and what would be happening later in the Mass, which they would all see. The children, older and younger, also handled the baton.
- Laudato Si – The Papal Encyclical on the Environment was well publicised in the parish and we supported the following events:
 - Weekly discussion session on each chapter of Laudato Si (September 2015)
 - Justice and Peace Lenten Retreat (March 2016)
 - Talks to Business Matters (originally planned for June 2016, awaiting venue)
- World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation – designated by Pope Francis for 1 September 2015 and then annually.
- Climate Change Petition for SCIAF – co-ordinated by the Eco-Congregation Group (March 2015)
- Photography Exhibition (our second) on the theme "Eco Sad, Eco Glad" – comprised 41

photos selected from entries from 9 parishioners. To save on paper, mounts etc, photos were presented in digital format on a screen as parishioners had coffee after Sunday Mass (February 2016).

- Distribution of seeds to parishioners, in small quantities to encourage them to make use of small spaces for growing. (March 2016)

Which of these activities are ongoing? Are there plans for the future to further help the congregation link environmental care and Christian discipleship?

Details:

-Recycling of Palms, Harvest Festival and World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation are annual events.

Future plans:

- Laudato Si events to continue
- "Tattie talk" by great potato expert, John Marshall?
- Gardening tips in newsletter.
- Living Streets – investigating a "safer street" survey
- Surplus food – discussions with local store, Waitrose.
- Interfaith Week (November 2017) an invitation to share practices with St. Peter's, or if possible at an earlier date.
- Encourage our parishioners to further increase their use of public transport and car sharing, helped by our central location.

Can you give an example where your activities have engaged with the congregation to make the link between their Christian faith and environmental concerns?

Details:

All activities have that aim, but the two events which have "reached" the greatest number of the congregation, at any one time have been:

- Harvest Festival – which is celebrated during Sunday Mass.
- Eco-Baton – again presented during Sunday Mass, whilst the Eco Congregation Paris prayer was said by all as one.

Average attendance at Sunday Mass is approx 275/300. (The Church capacity is 375 and it is full to capacity on Easter Sunday, over Christmas and on other special occasions.)

Practical Living

Taking practical action in the church and/or church grounds

Please list the activities / projects undertaken in this area and assess the impact that they have had on the church, community and wider environment. Please highlight any new initiatives since the last assessment.

Details:

- Bulb planting in the courtyard (November 2014). Parishioners were invited to sponsor a bulb in memory of a deceased loved one. The appeal raised sufficient funds for further investment in our outside spaces and we have since purchased a portable composter. Parishioners were active in the actual planting of the bulbs. We expect to repeat bulb planting Autumn 2016.
- Garden. Replanting of the small area to the rear of the Church is complete, with consideration to colour and attraction of butterflies (mainly). It has been much admired by parishioners particularly by those who pass it on the way to Mass. It added to the outside tours undertaken for visitors during Doors Open weekend in September 2015. Plants grown in the Parish Grounds have been used for floral arrangements inside the Church.
- The weekly newsletter went online in July 2015 as an option to paper format handed out at Sunday Mass. The newsletters are also uploaded to the website on a weekly basis. All discarded newsletters are collected and recycled.
- Recycling bags in the Parish Room are well used by all. These were recently replaced with coloured bags to improve profile.
- Marriage Catechist courses in Parish Room. Flip boards using paper have been replaced with individual wipe clean white boards.
- Portable composter now in place for plant waste, especially floral arrangements inside the Church.
- Where possible, plants grown in the Parish Garden are used for internal floral arrangements. Greenery is also supplied for this purpose from parishioners' gardens.

Which of these activities are ongoing? Are there plans for the future to further take practical action that will have a positive effect on the environment?

Details:

Garden and outside spaces are under ongoing review.

The results of the Carbon Footprint exercise have been shared with the Parish Pastoral Council. When the opportunity to undertake an improvement in the building arises, our Carbon Footprint will be a consideration in making these decisions. Current strategy is

to keep energy use as low as possible, whilst preserving the comfort of the congregation. Energy cost, and therefore energy use, is very closely monitored.

Energy & Gas provision is purchased through the Archdiocese Utility Group Purchasing Scheme as defined in Ideas for Greening Church Buildings.

We are fortunate in having the expertise of Alan Chudziak a retired Building Services Electrical Engineering Consultant, for advice on the Church building. He is also a current member of St. Peter's Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) and St. Peter's Property & Finance Committee. With his sponsorship, a review paper on Fabric, Technology and Information and Communication Systems was prepared for review by PPC in 2015. Alan is also a current member of the Archdiocesan Special Project Property Group that advise the Archdiocese Trustees on property matters.

Global Living

Having a positive impact on and/or working with the local and wider community. This must include measuring the carbon footprint of the church building and developing plans for its reduction

Please list the activities / projects undertaken in this area and assess the impact that they have had on the local/global community. Please highlight any new initiatives since the last assessment.

Details:

The Carbon Footprint exercise is completed annually, the results are scrutinised and then displayed for parishioners to read. Results for 2015 were shared with Parish Pastoral Council, and consideration will be given to these results if an opportunity for improvement to the building arises. In the meantime, careful husbandry of energy use continues.

All the initiatives that follow are new since the last assessment.

- PowerPoint Presentation was made to sister parish of St. Columba's about the experience St. Peter's had of becoming an Eco-Congregation. We have since attended the inaugural meeting of their Eco-Congregation Group and St. Columba's has become an Eco-Congregation.
- We have shared our application form for our First Award with St. Albert's with a view to encouraging them to become an Eco-Congregation. With our help, they have part completed the application form.
- Started a conversation with Waitrose, which is the supermarket closest to St. Peter's about their policy for managing the disposal of surplus food, and recycling of takeaway coffee cups.
- Talks to Business Matters – a forum for the business community – originally planned for June 2016, but awaiting details of a fresh venue.
- SCIAF – fundraising and awareness through various new, but now annual events, most notably Lenten Lunches and Advent Lunches, which consist of sharing a simple lunch with fellowship and prayer (Alternativity). A more recent innovation is the Afternoon Tea, which is more social in intent, but also raises funds for SCIAF. Crockery was sourced from local charity shops and donations to eliminate the waste of paper cups. Junior Great British Bake Off
- Mary's Meals – fundraising and awareness through the Advent Lunch in December 2015 (timing of which allowed for funds raised to be matched by UK Government), and Fundraising Dinner in February 2016.
- Freshstart – presentation to Youth Rock in March 2016 for their evening on Homelessness

Which of these activities / projects are ongoing? Are there plans for the future to further serve the local/global community?

Details:

SCIAF, Freshstart have designated parish representatives and projects are under constant review.

Future plans:

- Inter Faith Week (November 2017) – St. Peter's sharing practices with other faiths

How have you contributed to your local Eco-Congregation Network (if there is one), for example through hosting an event or mentoring another church?

Details:

A representative attends local Network meetings where possible.

One of our parishioners led one (of six) Laudato Si discussion sessions at Sacred Heart in September 2015.

We have been mentoring St. Columba's and St. Albert's to encourage them to register as Eco-Congregations. St. Columba's is now registered as an Eco-Congregation.

Carbon footprint

You can access the form below on the [Eco-Congregation website](#) if you wish, or you are welcome to use a different carbon footprint calculator and attach the results to this form.

Please double-click on any part of the table and you will be able to enter in figures for energy used (from your records or bills). Once you have entered your figures the multiplication will automatically be done for you and the kgs of carbon used and totals will appear in the third column.

Carbon Calculator			
	Enter energy used...	...multiplied by...	to give ...kgs of CO2
Gas: (Cubic metres)		2.009	0
... or kilowatt hours (kWh)		0.185	0
Oil: (Litres)		3.179	0
Electricity (kWh)		0.537	0
Total CO2 emissions from buildings (kilograms)			0
Total CO2 emissions from buildings (tonnes)			0.00

By how much, and how, has your carbon footprint been reduced since you gained your first award? Please attach evidence.

Details:

Carbon Footprint result for 2012 was used for First Award application = 28.27

Carbon Footprint result for 2015 is used above = 27.53

Reduction = 2.5%

What are your plans to continue reducing your carbon footprint?

Details:

If the opportunity arises for an improvement to the building, then Carbon Footprint data will be considered. Energy use will continue to be carefully managed around the needs of the congregation.

The present church lighting comprises generally, tubular fluorescent luminaires fixed

vertically to columns throughout with horizontal luminaires suspended and fixed to ceilings in ancillary spaces.

The present gas fired boiler & heating systems are serviced annually. Last boiler operation efficiency test for 2015/2016 was confirmed as being 92% efficient.

Energy efficient lighting has been installed in the living accommodation in the parish complex. Uninsulated CWS wood/lead lined tanks with lead pipe connections have been replaced with GRP fully insulated tanks and insulated pipework.

Future planned maintenance work being considered for possible implementation over the next 5 year period are:

Church lighting: options for future replacement are being considered, utilising LED & CFL lamp sources where appropriate to reduce consumption.

Boiler replacement with condensing boilers possibly being augmented with an air source heat pump.

Repainting of internal church brick walls white, which will increase reflectance and lighting levels.

Investigation of the possible use of PV solar panels on flat roof areas of the church behind parapet walls if Planning and Historic Scotland will agree on a Grade 1 Listed building.

Contractors are usually chosen from the Archdiocese contractors lists and recommendations for major works, using local tradesmen for minor ongoing repairs. We will make presentations where we can for contractors to be chosen (across the Archdiocese) with Eco-credentials in mind.

Proactive planting of the Garden mitigates in a small way, our Carbon Footprint.

