

Nomination for Dumfries & Galloway *People of the Year Awards 2011*

Award Category: Environmental Champion	
Name of nominated individual	Reverend Norman Hutcheson
Address of nominated individual	Dalbeattie Parish Church, 36 Mill St., Dalbeattie, Scotland, DG5 4HE

Description of individual and why I think they should be nominated:

Reverend Norman Hutcheson is an extremely enthusiastic and motivated individual, passionate about helping his Church and the wider community reduce its environmental impact.

His environmental work began in 2002, when he conducted an environmental audit of Dalbeattie Church and as a result of this, the Church became the second in Scotland to be awarded with eco-congregation status from Eco-Congregation Scotland.

Keen to continue to raise awareness, Reverend Hutcheson took the lead in climate change awareness by signing the Church up to a Carbon Reduction project, run by the Crichton Carbon Centre. As part of the project, the Reverend became a Carbon Champion, attending a 2-day intensive workshop on Carbon Management in 2010. Using his new skills and knowledge, he proceeded to calculate the carbon footprint for the Church and Church Centre. Once the carbon footprint had been calculated, Reverend Hutcheson organised a 90 minute Carbon Opportunities Workshop for the Church committee and elders, which was designed to inspire and engage participants to take action. The committee and elders participated in a 'blue sky' thinking activity, where they generated ideas for carbon reduction and environmental protection. Using these ideas, the Reverend developed an Action Plan for the Church, which includes reviewing the Church's lighting and considering the installation of destratification pumps to circulate warm air more efficiently.

Reverend Hutcheson did not only work hard to reduce the environmental impact of his own congregation, but also teamed up with the local Dalbeattie Carbon Action group, to help raise awareness of environmental issues in his local community. Under the auspices of the group, he used the Church's carbon footprint to encourage members of the community to calculate and reduce their own household emissions, as well as supporting the development of the local allotments. His passion for the topic has led him to undertake a further degree in International Development.

Keen to share his learning and encourage other Scottish Church's to reduce their impact, the Reverend gave a presentation at a Church of Scotland conference in Annan on the 26th March 2011. Here, he addressed Church leaders from across the region, encouraging them to take action and giving them advice on how they too could raise awareness and reduce the environmental impact of their Church and community. More recently, the Reverend visited Hungary as Eco Ambassador to share his experience with its churches and to inspire them to take action. His message was televised in an interview and published in an article on the Hungarian Church Network website. Throughout this time, Reverend Hutcheson has continued to work hard in his Church, which will again be recognised by the Eco-Congregation scheme, receiving a Second Award for its dedicated work and good practice.

Reverend Hutcheson's passion and dedication to the environment has motivated not only members of his own Church, but also of Churches nationally and internationally, inspiring them to take action to reduce their environmental impact. His commitment and forward thinking has helped raise the environmental awareness of churches and individuals across the region and it would be a great delight to see his efforts recognised through the Dumfries & Galloway People of the Year 2011 awards.