



WWF

TOOLKIT

2013



Conservation

Climate Change

Sustainability

WWF's Earth Hour 2013

8.30pm Saturday 23 March 2013

A guide for Eco-Congregations



WWF'S
GLOBAL
EVENT



Supporting WWF's
work in Scotland



**WE HAVE
THE POWER
TO MAKE IT
HAPPEN**

WWF'S EARTH HOUR IS A UNIQUE GLOBAL ANNUAL EVENT THAT FOCUSES THE WORLD'S ATTENTION ON OUR AMAZING PLANET, AND HOW WE NEED TO PROTECT IT

At 8.30pm on 23 March, hundreds of millions of people will turn off their lights for one hour, on the same night, all across the world in a huge, symbolic show of support for action on climate change and for a more sustainable future. It's always a memorable and spectacular event with cities, communities and landmarks across the globe going dark for the hour.

This year's Earth Hour is celebrating the power of nature – the way renewable energy can move us away from fossil fuels and help reduce global carbon emissions. This is especially important in Scotland with our wealth of wind, tide and waves.

Why? Because in Scotland we're consuming three times our fair share of the planet's natural resources. And our reliance on high carbon fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas is over-heating the atmosphere and affecting the climate.

The future of our planet relies on us moving away from fossil fuels and onto clean green renewable energy which works with the awesome power of nature, not against it.

Switch off your lights at 8.30pm on Saturday 23 March and help us spread the word. Get involved at www.wwfscotland.org.uk/earthhour

We'd like to work with your congregation to help you make Earth Hour 2013 a huge success in your area. Together we have the power to make change happen.

© Tim Laman/WWF



WHAT CAN LOCAL CONGREGATIONS DO FOR EARTH HOUR 2013?

Compassionate and loving God, you created the world for us all to share, a world of beauty and plenty. Create in us a desire to live simply, so that our lives may reflect your generosity.

Creator God, You gave us responsibility for the earth, a world of riches and delight. Create in us a desire to live sustainably, so that those who follow after us may enjoy the fruits of your creation.

God of peace and justice, You give us the capacity to change, to bring about a world that mirrors your wisdom.

Create in us a desire to act in solidarity, so that the pillars of injustice crumble and those now crushed are set free.
Amen.

© Linda Jones / CAFOD

In 2012 a record 152 countries and 6,895 towns and cities took part for the biggest call to action for the protection of the planet. In Scotland, the success of Earth Hour continues to grow. We were the first country in the world to have 100 per cent support for Earth Hour from its local authorities, each year famous landmarks in every area of the country switch off their lights, and individuals, organisations and businesses all join together to take part in communities across Scotland. We want to build on this success.

Your congregation can play a vital role in reducing carbon emissions, increasing sustainability and engaging with your community.

Switch off: register your involvement online at www.wwf.org.uk/ehsignup and turn off the lights in your own home for one hour on 23 March 2013 at 8.30pm. Encourage friends, family and colleagues to get involved too.

Take part: WWF's Earth is your chance to take action to protect our planet – not just for an hour, but every day. There are many ways your congregation could take part in Earth Hour:

- Hold a candlelit service for Earth Hour (see page 6 for further details)
- Arrange for any lights in or on your church to switch off for Earth Hour
- Host a candlelit dinner party and make use of our handy dinner party guide
- Run an Earth Hour event such as a cake bake off, an Earth Hour quiz or a 'wear it bright' night, by digging out your brightest and most colourful clothes
- Plan a torchlight wildlife or stargazing walk to make the most of the hour of darkness

Engage: spread the word and help demonstrate the support for action on climate change in your area by:

- Encouraging local community groups and other organisations to register and get involved
- Talking to local businesses and organisations to get the lights switched off on iconic or important buildings/structures in your area
- Make use of notice boards, newsletters and websites to engage members of the public and highlight your own support



**An hour of
darkness to protect
our brilliant planet**

A message from Eco-Congregations

Eco-Congregation Scotland is an ecumenical charity helping church congregations link environmental issues to their Christian faith and encouraging them to take practical action in their church and community.

We provide:

- Support and advice on environmental issues
- Local networks of churches
- An awards scheme
- An annual meeting of eco-congregations
- An environmental audit for churches
- Written materials for study, worship and practical action
- A website
- Regular newsletters
- Links with other organisations

We would like all churches to take part in Earth Hour (you don't need to be an Eco-Congregation) as a sign to the wider community that care for creation matters. Climate change is a justice issue - our misuse of natural resources has a much greater effect on poor people in developing countries than on us.

Even if your church buildings are usually closed on a Saturday evening, we'd like you to consider holding a short, candlelit Earth Hour service. By promoting your service through local newspapers, newsletters, posters etc, you can make connections with new people and local organisations.

Check out Module 2 in the materials section of our website for ideas for services at www.ecocongregationscotland.org.

© Tommy Slack



IDEAS FOR EARTH HOUR 2013

Just some of the many Eco-Congregation activities that took place all across the country in 2012:

Dunscore Parish Church wrote a prayer for Earth Hour:

Creator God, this earth is miraculous and beautiful. Forgive our confusion and inaction as we confront the challenges of climate change.

In the light of your truth, seen so clearly in the life and teaching of Jesus, help us to re-examine ourselves and our lifestyle choices and see clearly the implications of how we live on all that sustains life on this earth.

May we follow your leading in caring for every aspect of this precious world, which you made and love.

Throughout history you have moved people to do amazing things for the sake of their neighbours.

Inspire us now to work together, as your people, to change priorities in the way we live, so that we build a fair and safe world for all your creation; a world where your will is done as it is in heaven.

Amen

Pilrig St Paul's Edinburgh

The Church of Pilrig St Paul's hosted a concert of choral music by the Pilrig Chorus and during Earth Hour at 8.30pm the lights of the church were dimmed. The free concert included John Rutter's Requiem and other choral pieces, conducted by Martin Ritchie.

Skene Parish Church

Skene Parish Church held its first Earth Hour Candlelight Service. 40 to 50 people gathered to meet then take part in Prayer and Praise by Candlelight. They heard about how Earth Hour came about as well as about other campaigns the parish were engaged in as well as sharing pudding and cups of tea!

Arbroath Old & Abbey Church

Arbroath's Old & Abbey Church held its now annual candlelit event for Earth Hour. The time the event included the short animated film 'The River' as well as a concert recital with organ, piano and singers all by candlelight. Could use the photo of this church from last year?

Other churches that switched off their lights included Kelvinside Hillhead Parish Church and Glasgow Cathedral.

Do you know a Hidden Hero?

WWF's Hidden Heroes is a nationwide search for the inspirational people making a difference for the environment in their school, business or community – for example, a pupil who raises funds for a school garden; a colleague who promotes greener lifestyles and sustainability in their office, or a local neighbour who works hard raising awareness of environmental issues through conservation days.

Your Hidden Hero could receive a prestigious Earth Hour award - find out how to nominate them at www.wwf.org.uk/hiddenheroes

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

For up to date information and access to resources, visit wwfscotland.org.uk/earthhour

On these pages you will find:

- The WWF Scotland Earth Hour video
- Links to the online sign-up page
- Links to useful resources
- Updates on what's happening in Scotland

As WWF's Earth Hour approaches we'll also provide you with a newsletter and facebook text as well as tweets for you to use in your promotion work. Make sure you check out our own social media activity on Twitter [@wwfscotland](https://twitter.com/wwfscotland) or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/wwfscotland

We'd like to work with your congregation to help you make Earth Hour 2013 a huge success in your area. Please contact us to find out more.

Contact:

WWF Scotland
Little Dunkeld
Dunkeld
Perthshire
PH8 0AD
scotland@wwf.org.uk
Tel 01350 728200

© WWF Scotland



© Maverick Agency



© Maverick Agency



Earth Hour in numbers

100%

support from Scottish Local Authorities for Earth Hour in 2012

100

iconic buildings switched off in Scotland



811

schools in Scotland participated last year

56%

of all MSPs supported Earth Hour 2012



Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

wwfscotland.org.uk