

# Eco-congregation Scotland Gold Award Application

This award is open to any congregation registered as an eco-congregation **and is a member of** Eco-congregation Scotland.

Please complete each section of the form, **briefly** describing how your congregation meets the criteria given for each section. If you wish, you may also submit **relevant** supporting evidence (for example, photographs, newsletter articles, posters, press coverage). It is helpful to the assessor if you can reference any supporting evidence at appropriate places within your responses.



## Eco-Congregation details

Name of church

Denomination

Church address  
(including postcode)

## Your contact person for this application

Name

Phone number

E-mail address

Postal address  
(including postcode)

Application date

## Section 1: General Aspects

1.1	The congregation <b>has a long term sustainable eco “action plan”</b> which it regularly <b>reviews, evaluates and updates</b> .
<p><i>Describe briefly your <b>eco action plan</b>, and how you <b>review and update</b> it, and <b>evaluate</b> progress.</i></p>	

1.2	Eco activities, involving a significant proportion of the congregation, are embedded in the programme of many groups within the congregation, and fully supported by the leadership of the congregation.
<p><i>Describe briefly which groups and individuals are involved in initiating, co-ordinating and participating in eco activities, and how this is supported by the leadership of the congregation.</i></p>	

1.3	The congregation is well-known <b>within its community</b> for its leadership and commitment to environmental issues.
<p><i>Describe briefly how the congregation is known and involved in the community for its commitment to environmental issues.</i></p>	

1.4	The congregation is an <b>active member</b> of Eco-congregation Scotland, with individuals showing their commitment by attending the Annual Gathering or taking on leadership roles at local, network or national level.
<p><i>Describe briefly your involvement in Eco-congregation Scotland at local, network and/or national levels.</i></p>	

**For assessor use only:** (check one statement, and add comment if required)

The congregation has **exceeded** the criteria for section 1

The congregation has **met fully** all the criteria for section 1

The congregation has **made significant progress towards** meeting all the criteria for section 1

The congregation **falls well below** the criteria for section 1

Comment:

## Section 2: Spiritual Living

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

2.1	Leaders and members of the congregation are regularly involved in <b>discussing environmental issues and lifestyle.</b>
<p><i>Describe briefly how <b>environmental and lifestyle issues are discussed</b> within your congregation.</i></p>	

2.2	Care for creation is embedded in the worship, study and prayer life of the congregation, and reflected in the congregation's mission or policy statements.
<p><i>Describe briefly examples of how care for creation is embedded in the worship, study and prayer life of the congregation, and in its mission or policy statements (or equivalents).</i></p>	

**For assessor use only:** (check one statement, and add comment if required)

The congregation has **exceeded** the criteria for section 2

The congregation has **met fully** all the criteria for section 2

The congregation has **made significant progress towards** meeting all the criteria for section 2

The congregation **falls well below** the criteria for section 2

Comment:

## Section 3: Practical Living

### Taking practical action in individual lives, the church and/or church grounds.

3.1	<b>Individual members taking action:</b> In addition to <b>action by individuals</b> within the congregation, members of the congregation are involved in leading or actively supporting one or more practical <b>projects within the community</b> to reduce environmental impact.
<p><i>Describe briefly how <b>individual members are taking practical action</b> to reduce their own impact on the environment, and leading or actively supporting <b>environmental initiatives within their community</b>.</i></p>	

3.2	<b>Action in church buildings:</b> The church is implementing and developing its environmental strategy in innovative and imaginative ways, is <b>continuing to monitor its energy use</b> , and has undertaken significant steps to minimise energy use and reduce the carbon footprint of its buildings, to reduce waste and to implement appropriate action, where possible, related to <b>travel and finance</b> .
<p><i>Describe briefly your congregation's <b>strategy</b> to significantly <b>reduce its impact on the environment</b>, describing steps taken to <b>minimise energy use, carbon footprint and waste</b>, and any actions related to <b>travel and finance</b>. Where possible <b>provide figures</b> to show the effectiveness of your actions.</i></p>	

3.3	<b>Biodiversity, wildlife, grounds and gardens:</b> In addition to action in church grounds and members' properties, the congregation actively supports projects in the wider community to support biodiversity and wildlife.
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*Describe briefly any practical steps your congregation has taken to **adapt the church grounds or members' own properties** to be more environmentally friendly, and any **wider community projects that you support**.*

**For assessor use only:** (check one statement, and add comment if required)

The congregation has **exceeded** the criteria for section 3

The congregation has **met fully** all the criteria for section 3

The congregation has **made significant progress towards** meeting all the criteria for section 3

The congregation **falls well below** the criteria for section 3

Comment:



## Section 4: Global Living

### Having a positive impact on and/or working with national and global environmental justice concerns

4.1	<b>Local and national concerns:</b> The congregation is actively engaged in supporting <b>local or national action to combat environmental damage</b> and build a more sustainable future.
<p><i>Describe briefly examples of how your congregation is actively involved in <b>supporting positive environmental initiatives locally or nationally.</b></i></p>	

4.2	<b>Global and international concerns:</b> The congregation is actively engaged in <b>supporting and/or campaigning for international action to combat environmental damage</b> and build a more sustainable future.
<p><i>Describe briefly examples of how your congregation is <b>actively involved in supporting or campaigning for action to combat environmental damage and build a more sustainable future.</b></i></p>	

**For assessor use only:** (check one statement, and add comment if required)

The congregation has **exceeded** the criteria for section 4

The congregation has **met fully** all the criteria for section 4

The congregation has **made significant progress towards** meeting all the criteria for section 4

The congregation **falls well below** the criteria for section 4

Comment:

## End of application form.

Please send the completed form (including the “assessor use only” pages), by e-mail if possible, along with any supporting material, to:

**Email** [coordinator@ecocongregationscotland.org](mailto:coordinator@ecocongregationscotland.org)

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

**For assessor use only:**

Taking into account:

- the capacity and context of the congregation,
- the activities/initiatives they have undertaken with a spiritual, practical and global/local dimension,
- the information you have learned both from the application form, supporting evidence and assessment visit,

**do you consider that the congregation has met the criteria for this Eco-Congregation Gold Award?**

Yes  No

**If yes:**

List any initiatives / activities that merit particular **commendation**:

List any **recommendations** for future work:

If no:

Make **recommendations for further action** that will enable the congregation to fulfil the award criteria:

