

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)

Church website (for background info)

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 has a long term sustainable eco “action plan” which it regularly reviews, evaluates and updates .
<p><i>Submit your current eco action plan, and describe how you review and update it, and evaluate 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 and sustained 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 and sustained by the leadership of the congregation.</i></p>	

1.3	The congregation is well-known within its community 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 active member of Eco-congregation Scotland, with individuals showing their commitment by (for example) 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 discussing environmental and lifestyle issues .
<p><i>Describe briefly how environmental and lifestyle issues are discussed within your congregation, with examples.</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	Individual members taking action: Individual members are actively challenged and supported to reduce their own environmental impact. In addition, members of the congregation are involved in leading or actively supporting one or more practical projects within the community to reduce environmental impact.
<p><i>Describe briefly how individual members are taking practical action to reduce their own impact on the environment, and leading or actively supporting environmental initiatives within their community.</i></p>	

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

3.3 **Biodiversity, wildlife, grounds and gardens:** In addition to action in church grounds and members' properties, the congregation actively supports projects in the wider community to support biodiversity and wildlife.

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

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

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:

