**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 is you can reference any supporting evidence at appropriate places within your responses.

**Eco-Congregation details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of church |  |

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| --- | --- |
| Denomination |  |

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| --- | --- |
| Church address (including postcode) |  |

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| --- | --- |
| Church website | (for background info) |

**Your contact person for this application**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Phone number |  |

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| --- | --- |
| E-mail address |  |

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| --- | --- |
| Postal address (including postcode) |  |
| Application date |  |

**Section 1: General Aspects**

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| 1.1 | The congregation **has a long term sustainable eco “action plan”** which it regularly **reviews, evaluates** and **updates**. |
| *Submit your current* ***eco action plan****, and describe how you* ***review*** *and* ***update*** *it, and* ***evaluate*** *progress.* | |

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| 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. |
| *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.* | |

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| 1.3 | The congregation is well-known **within its community** for its leadership and commitment to environmental issues. |
| *Describe briefly how the congregation is known and involved in the community for its commitment to environmental issues.* | |

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| 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. |
| *Describe briefly your involvement in Eco-congregation Scotland at local, network and/or national levels.* | |

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| ***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.**

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| 2.1 | Leaders and members of the congregation are regularly involved in **discussing environmental and lifestyle issues.** |
| *Describe briefly how* ***environmental and lifestyle issues are discussed*** *within your congregation, with examples.* | |

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| 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. |
| *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).* | |

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| ***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.**

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| 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. |
| *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****.* | |

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| 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**. |
| *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.* | |

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| 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****.* | |

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| ***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**

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| 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. |
| *Describe briefly examples of how your congregation is actively involved in* ***supporting positive environmental initiatives locally or nationally****.* | |

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| 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. |
| *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.* | |

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| ***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** [administrator@ecocongregationscotland.org](mailto:administrator@ecocongregationscotland.org)

**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**:

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List any **recommendations** for future work:

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If no:

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

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