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Guide to Carbon Footprint/ Reduction Schemes

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We can't sweep carbon under the carpet – certainly not the amount that's threatening our world.

Global emissions of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere from fossil fuel burning are currently approaching seven billion tonnes of carbon per annum – and rising rapidly – according to leading environmentalist Sir John Houghton.

'Unless strong measures are taken, they will reach two or three times their present levels during the 21st century and stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations and climate will be nowhere in sight,' he wrote in the book *When Enough Is Enough* (Apollos, 2007).

'To stabilise carbon dioxide concentrations, 21st century emissions must reduce to a fraction of their present levels before the century's end,' he pointed out. It sounds like there is very little we can do about it – in our churches or individual lives. But John assures us there is plenty we can do. Here's a taster:

- when purchasing vehicles or appliances, choose ones that are fuel efficient;
- ensure our homes are as energy efficient as possible;
- purchase electricity from a 'green' supplier guaranteeing it is from renewable sources;
- use public transport, car-share more frequently, or travel less;
- support leaders in government or industry who promote solutions.

CO2 NOW
co2now.org

do



Eco-congregation Scotland has produced a useful set of guidelines for churches serious about setting out on the journey of reducing their carbon footprint

The document Climate Change: Managing Your Carbon Footprint is free to download, and is worth a read – with detailed advice on the following steps:

- 1 monitor your energy use;
- 2 work out the carbon footprint of your church buildings;
- 3 make a commitment to reduce this by five per cent a year.

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MANAGING YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

www.ecocongregationscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Managing-Your-Carbon-Footprint.pdf



Start small on your eco-journey

Every place of worship is unique. And there's no single solution to energy reduction, says buildingconservation.com. Set up by Cathedral Communications, the building conservation website says it's best to start small by reducing energy wastage. Visit this page for a useful summary on the different energy-saving actions a church can undertake – and the potential savings that might be achieved.

Make meaningful steps

Starting out can be the most daunting part of any project. That's the warning from ChurchCare, the Church of England's national building resource. They recommend three steps to reducing your church's carbon footprint. With additional comments from Eco Church, these are:

- 1 Be informed on climate change facts and links with Christianity – as well as looking at others churches' projects. Communicate the information to your congregation and/or community.
- 2 Gather together a working group to take the lead on these critical issues. Include those interested and those with church building responsibilities. Focus discussions on actions inside and outside the church building.
- 3 Start reducing your carbon footprint. It is important to first monitor your energy use to understand your starting point – and then create your church's energy policy.





Monitor your progress

The Church of England Diocese of Chester has created the 'Environment Wheel' to help stimulate discussion and act as a template for parishes, synods and diocesan committees to use, to record their actions. You can download this tool and use it to monitor your steps, asking the questions:

- what are we doing already to care for creation;
- how can we develop this further;
- what new things can we do that will relate to our ministry and mission;
- when will we review this?

Study the benefits of carbon reduction

The Carbon Trust is an independent body that helps organisations in carbon reduction. They have produced a 20-page guide to carbon footprinting. The document explains what is included in organisational and product footprints, how to measure and communicate them, and the benefits of doing so.

Investigate how other pioneers make it work for them

You can see how an entire Anglican diocese has devoted itself to shrinking its carbon footprint by visiting the webpage for Route 2050. This is the Diocese of London's strategic long-term plan to reduce the energy use and carbon footprint of all its buildings and property.

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DIOCESE OF CHESTER'S ENVIRONMENT WHEEL

www.chester.anglican.org/page_csr.asp?Page=658

CARBON TRUST

www.carbontrust.com/resources/guides/carbon-footprinting-and-reporting/carbon-footprinting

ROUTE 2050

www.london.anglican.org/kb/route-2050



Examine practical ideas that make a change

Where do churches and individual Christians begin to reduce their environmental footprint and live more lightly on the earth? That question is examined in the booklet *How Many Lightbulbs Does It Take To Change A Christian?* The publication is divided into eight sections – water, energy, transportation, waste, biodiversity, well-being, lifestyle, and Sabbath. It offers practical ideas to help congregations make a difference to the environment.

Use magnetic conditioning technology for your boiler

It may sound like magic, but since the late 1800's scientific researchers have been examining the impact of strong magnetic fields upon hydrocarbon-based fuels and water. In heating systems, the correct application of powerful magnetic fields, such as those generated by the very strongest neodymium magnets, can increase fuel combustion efficiency, alongside reducing fuel usage and boiler emissions. This magnet-based conditioning technology is currently fitted extensively throughout the Canterbury Diocese. Similarly, with complimentary magnetic water conditioning technology, it is claimed that in hard water areas, through influencing the processes that create and deposit limescale, boiler efficiency is enhanced and the operational life of boilers and appliances extended. Energy is saved, costs decreased, carbon emissions and the use of chemicals are reduced.

The key as with many new technologies, such as the magnetic conditioning technology supplied by Magneum Innovative, is that the initial cost will be recovered in a comparatively short period of time, being offset by savings – and the long-term benefits for the planet can be huge.

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HOW MANY LIGHTBULBS DOES IT TAKE TO CHANGE A CHRISTIAN?

[www.churchpublishing.org/products/
howmanylightbulbsdoesittaketochangeachristian](http://www.churchpublishing.org/products/howmanylightbulbsdoesittaketochangeachristian)

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www.magneum.co.uk