



Eco Diocese Awards: new criteria for Silver awards

MOTIVATING. EQUIPPING. POLICY. CHANGING.

Text in orange is a supporting explanation of why the criteria has been strengthened or added; text in green is for brand new criteria.

BRONZE	NEW SILVER
<p>Existing BRONZE Criteria</p> <p>Commissioned an individual or group to coordinate progress within the Diocese</p>	<p>Proposal for SILVER</p> <p>Commissioned a group (i.e. rather than an individual), such as an environmental advisory or working group, to coordinate progress within the Diocese.</p> <p><i>Ideally this would include a Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) representative or at least good links established between the two groups and also the involvement of a senior member of the Diocesan leadership team.</i></p> <p>In order to sustain this work for the long term, it needs to be owned by more than one individual in a Diocese and needs the profile and commitment given to other groups, e.g. such as the finance committee</p>
	<p>New criteria: Provided training and development opportunities for a group of local / regional promoters such as Eco Champions.</p> <p>In order to build and maintain momentum, a network of committed promoters / activists should be equipped to help support and enable uptake for example amongst less well resourced churches</p>

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<p>Written an environmental policy</p> <p><i>That has been agreed by the Bishop's Council and Diocesan Synod/Church in Wales Diocesan Conference (this should include points on travel, the environmental maintenance of vicarages, and a commitment to reducing diocesan carbon emissions).</i></p>	<p>Written an Environmental Policy which includes land management with an explicit reference to promoting biodiversity and managing the land for carbon reduction across the Diocese.</p> <p>In order to inform the Diocesan Environmental Policy, the diocese will have undertaken a survey or an audit of all land managed and administered by the diocese, identifying land of importance to conservation in the following categories (and / or other categories as may emerge from a pilot) -</p> <p>SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest)</p> <p>NNR (National Nature Reserve)</p> <p>CWS (County Wildlife Site)</p> <p>LNR (Local Nature Reserve)</p> <p>SNCI (Site of Nature Conservation Interest)</p> <p>A priority habitat (as identified in section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Section 41 habitats) and in 2016 Environment Act for Wales.)</p> <p>Home to a known population of a priority species (as identified in section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Section 41 species) and in the 2016 Environment Act for Wales.)</p> <p>In an agri-environmental scheme (e.g. Countryside Stewardship)</p> <p>The audit should result in a report that identifies the current state of management for conservation of this land. It should identify priorities for improving the value of diocesan land for biodiversity and carbon sequestration with particular reference to opportunities to put the land into relevant agri-environmental schemes, and flag up areas that may warrant further survey work.</p>
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A Rocha UK - Eco Diocese

30 September 2021

Eco Denominational awards

New recommendation: Promote environmental care across schools in the Diocese

Diocesan policy should be to encourage schools to pursue accreditation with an appropriate awarding body (e.g. Eco Schools) and / or look for environmental projects and partnerships with local churches

New criteria: The Diocesan Board of Education to have put in place an appropriate environmental policy

Inspection of church schools in England should take due account of the environmental criteria that are part of Strand 3 of the 2018 SIAMS evaluation schedule. Schools should be made aware of this.*

Gwella Inspection of church schools in Wales should take due account of environmental care (as expressed within the Anglican Marks of Mission) as being an essential Christian character. Schools should be made aware of this.

We have been asked a lot about schools' work in the last few years and there is a growing recognition of and intent to develop the synergies between Eco Church and schools work.

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<p>New recommendation: Commit to develop a plan for carbon reduction</p>	<p>New criteria: Agreed carbon reduction targets and developed an action plan to get there</p> <p>This should take due note as appropriate of either the Church of England’s Net Zero 2030 Target or the Church in Wales proposed Net Zero Carbon Action Plan, such that the Diocese:</p> <p><i>1) Has declared its intention to move towards net zero carbon emissions;</i> <i>2) Has researched and published a plan as to how this is to be achieved and the timescale it is working towards; and</i> <i>3) Is resourcing the achievement of the plan, particularly amongst independent bodies within the diocese, such as schools and parishes, through active Christian environmental education and support.</i></p> <p><i>The Diocese is able to provide clear advice to stakeholders, including schools and parishes giving them roadmaps to carbon reduction. The Diocese is also actively working to inform stakeholders of the Biblical imperative and urgency of action needed.</i></p> <p>Given the scale and urgency of the crisis that we face, we know that we have to set ambitious and bold targets. This reflects the CoE’s 2020 General Synod commitment but we know that other denominations are now looking at this too. Hopefully including this across all the ‘area’ schemes will encourage them further.</p>
<p>Gained the appropriate levels of local church registrations and Awards for Eco Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bronze Eco Diocese: 10% of local churches registered; 5% of local churches awarded 	<p>Gained the appropriate levels of local church registrations and awards for Eco Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 40% of local churches registered 30% of local churches awarded of which at least a third of these awards should be Silver or higher <p>Given the urgency of the crises that we face and the scale of the challenge, we have to set more stretching targets to encourage ‘areas’ to push for and promote even</p>

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<p>Achieve the relevant award for Diocesan House / Office (where appropriate) and land (where appropriate).</p>	<p>Achieve the relevant award for Diocesan House / Office (where appropriate) and land (where appropriate) and promote an understanding amongst all all staff of Eco Diocese goals</p> <p><i>Ideally all diocesan staff will have had some environmental training and awareness of environmental issues will be included in prayer time (see training criteria below)</i></p> <p><i>For an 'office' environment to become truly sustainable, all staff need to understand the direction of travel and why this matters. It cannot be left to one individual to champion and own this across a whole office team.</i></p>
<p>Embedded environmental issues in ongoing-training</p> <p>Within the curricula of its training for both lay and ministerial staff</p>	<p>Environmental training should be included in standard Diocesan training for both lay and ordained ministry such that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1) Environmental training is offered to all Diocesan Staff;</i> <i>2) At least two high profile all clergy training events related to the environment have been undertaken in the last four years;</i> <i>3) external training events for Clergy and Lay Ministers / Readers are regularly directly organised or promoted on all aspects of Christianity and the environment;</i> <i>4) In-depth Christian environmental study (for example such as that provided by the CRES Course or similar certificate course) is regularly promoted;</i> <i>5) A connection to the natural world is actively encouraged through promoting networks and events held by external groups (for example A Rocha's Wild Christian community and local Wildlife Trusts, and CFgA); and</i> <i>6) Local church members engaged with promoting parish environmental work, are practically supported for example through Eco Champion networks</i> <p><i>Environmental training / creation care should not be an optional extra in a package of training, nor left to clergy alone. This needs to become as relevant as good financial management (stewardship)</i></p>

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<p>Managed Diocesan investments ethically</p> <p><i>In line with the ethical policies of the Church of England or Church in Wales national investing bodies, including on climate change, guided by the recommendations of the Ethical Investment Advisory Group</i></p>	<p>As a minimum, all Diocesan funds are invested in line with the Provincial ethical investment policy, i.e. in England to start divesting from companies not serious about moving to a low carbon economy (i.e. those not engaged in transitioning); and by 2023 to divest from fossil fuel companies not aligned with the Paris Agreement target.</p> <p><i>In Wales this already equates to no investment in fossil fuel production.</i></p> <p>Additionally, diocese must have made a commitment to pursue investment in at least one of the following (or similar) areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● implementation of critical engagement on climate change in respect of the full range of investments, and an approach to move the entire diocesan investment portfolio gradually to be zero carbon; and/or ● investment in renewable energy and/or woodland; and/or ● investment in 'deep impact' projects (e.g. such as in the themes of financial inclusion, affordable and safe housing, and the environment. <p>We are proposing to keep this under review especially in light of the recent appointment of a new Head of Social Impact Investment at the CoE</p>
<p><i>Not a criteria for Bronze</i></p>	<p>New criteria: Written an ethical banking and investment policy following established environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) criteria</p> <p>Banking has felt like ‘the elephant in the room’ with regard to ‘area’ schemes (and in churches). Although a lot of emphasis is placed on capital investment (or divestment), significant amounts of money are invested in high street banks which may have little if any regard for ESG principles. Longer term, it may be unnecessary to make this distinction between cash and capital investment - but these warrant separate tracking for now.</p>

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<p>Worked with other Dioceses and or faith groups</p> <p><i>To encourage greater environmental action, including promoting Eco Church as a helpful tool</i></p>	<p>Work with partner church groups both locally and internationally to raise mutual awareness in regard to climate change and species loss mitigation and resilience measures.</p> <p>A) Local <i>Evidence of environmental engagement with other denominations at both parish and diocesan level.</i></p> <p>B) International <i>1) Has a good level of dialogue and collaboration on issues of environmental care with its international Companion Link Diocese(s), and/or its Mother's Union Link Diocese(s).</i> <i>2) Has an awareness of the international call made upon it as an Anglican diocese through the many Lambeth Conference resolutions on the environment; those of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) (particularly A16.08 A17.05; A17.06, and A17.11) and through the 2015 document 'The World is our Host'. Has an awareness of the work of the ACEN and the Anglican Alliance in regard to environmental care and climate justice.</i></p> <p><i>This has been strengthened to promote even greater partnership work and more awareness of climate change vis a vis international connections too.</i></p>
<p>Established the habit of recording and celebrating individual environmental initiatives</p>	<p>Include a clear and substantial presence for environmental issues (including e.g. projects demonstrably cutting carbon, restoring nature etc) on the Diocesan website and through wider communication channels (e.g. celebrate and include number of awarded churches etc)</p> <p><i>Regular inclusion of Eco Church to celebrate progress at Diocesan meetings</i> <i>Diocese taking steps to facilitate net-working of local Eco Church groups</i></p> <p><i>This is about incorporating environmental issues into every aspect of the 'area' machinery including via main communication channels.</i></p>