



Eco-Congregation Scotland Newsletter

Issue 13

Summer / Autumn 2008

Helping you to care for God's creation

Editorial

Making a commitment

In its proposals for a Scottish Climate Change Bill the Scottish Government suggested one big idea: that in Scotland we should reduce our emissions of greenhouse gases by 80% by 2050. The proposal was widely welcomed by environmental groups and faith groups, but probably meant very little to most people in Scotland. It is a huge commitment that will, if it goes ahead, change the lives of everyone in Scotland, rich or poor, rural or urban.

To achieve the kind of cuts the Government is proposing everybody in Scotland, every business and every community, will have to make real and substantial cuts in its emissions of greenhouse gases over the next 40 years and, by implication, a reduction in our use of all fossil fuels.

Some are already taking on the challenge. The Iona Community has made a commitment to reduce its energy consumption by 5% year on year. The Going Carbon Neutral Stirling project, in which the Stirling Eco-Congregation network is a stakeholder, is looking at a 9% cut in emissions each year.



Could you achieve this in your Church, your Manse and other church buildings or even at home? Where would you begin? As a start: do you know how much energy you used last year? You can work out your carbon dioxide emissions from your gas, electricity and other fuel bills.

The website <http://www.carbonrationing.org.uk/> shows you how to do this. Do the sums for yourself and you may be shocked how much you are contributing.

There is plenty of information available about how to reduce carbon emissions and on page 8 of this edition we include a whole range of advice from the Energy Saving Trust. This is relevant to everyone in your congregation, in your family or in your community. It will save energy and money, helping those who are struggling with ever increasing fuel bills.

The back page is especially designed so that you can copy it into your church magazine, notices or community newspaper. Please do all you can to circulate this information.

News

Support from the Scottish Episcopal Church

We are delighted to report that Eco-Congregation Scotland has received a grant from the SEC's Church in Society Committee. This grant will help us to implement the changes recommended by the Review and support the on-going development and administration of the programme throughout this financial year.

Rubbish Church at Church of Scotland's Gathering

The Rev Roddy Hamilton from Abbotsford Parish Church had the brilliant idea of constructing a church building out of all the empty plastic water bottles used at the recent Church of Scotland Gathering at



Ingliston in Edinburgh. It was a very vivid symbol of the throw away society and the way in which we need to act now to care better for

God's creation. Eye catching, in a prominent location, and interactive, the "Rubbish Church" became a much photographed feature of the weekend and served to

promote Eco-Congregation to all those attending. Around 700 bottles were used and have now been recycled. Thank you to the team of volunteers who helped stringing up all those bottles over the two days. Maybe the challenge for future is to organise events that don't produce so much rubbish – so that we can reuse or reduce.

Progress on Review 08

As reported in our last newsletter the Eco-Congregation Scotland steering group is undertaking a comprehensive review of the programme. In the last few months we have consulted further with all registered churches about the main points that came out of the Review Day meeting in January.

Thank you to all those who responded, many helpful comments and suggestions were received and have been noted. A summary of progress to date is given below and a full analysis of the responses we received can be found on our website at <http://www.ecocongregation.org/scotland/news.html>

By far the majority of registered churches responding to the consultation were supportive of the changes suggested on the Review Day.

Entry to the programme: Making entry to the programme easier will involve changes to the way in which churches register – the current system is one used by Eco-Congregation in England, Wales and Ireland. We are therefore in consultation with them about changes which will be acceptable to all.

The idea of mentoring has been tested with churches active in the networks, but we hope to expand on this and involve more congregations. *Please get in touch if your church be willing to support another local congregation new to the programme – help them through Module 1, give them ideas and inspiration for their creation care work? Or, if you are new to the programme, let us know if you would like such support?*

Supporting the development of the programme: As reported elsewhere, we have made progress with securing financial support from denominations and we are working on getting more!

We have also been successful in securing a grant from the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency to develop a “footprinting” tool to allow congregations to measure and reduce their environmental impact, particularly their carbon emissions. *We will soon be looking for churches to try it out!*

Responding to Climate Change: Many Eco-Congregations already have contacts with their local authorities (see West Lothian and Falkirk Network report). However, we are meeting with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities to and the Sustainable Scotland Network to strengthen links at the national level.

Many churches already have strong links with other countries, but *we will be encouraging you to find out more about how our current lifestyles impact on others, particularly the poor of the world.*

New website for England and Wales

Eco-Congregation in England and Wales have launched a new look website. Take a look at www.ew.ecocongregation.org . Especially valuable are all the additional resources listed on the pages for each Module.

Butterflies, Swifts and Bumblebees – you can help!

An aspect of climate change that is only slowly beginning to be considered is monitoring species to see their change in distribution.

Butterfly Conservation has been undertaking research for some time now. Fifteen years ago orange-tip butterflies were unknown in many parts of Scotland; now they are fairly commonplace. Last year someone in Pitlochry phoned in excitement at seeing a rare butterfly. It turned out to be a peacock butterfly, one



Photo C A G Lloyd

of the most common of butterflies down south, but now accepted as part of the Scottish fauna in many Central and Southern areas. Butterfly Conservation is asking for sightings of peacock butterflies to continue monitoring their progress up the country. To take part, fill in the online survey at www.butterfly-conservation.org/form/737/scottish_peacock_survey.html .

The Swift population decline continues and the reasons are unknown – at first it was thought that the harsh weather over the Sahara was thinning the birds out there before they got to the UK. The swift population, however, has not declined as drastically in England and Wales as it has in Scotland: up to 62% lost so far in the last few years. Apart from many of their nest sites being lost due to renovation or demolition of old tenements and churches, there is talk that the numbers are dwindling because of less food availability. This may be due to climate change – the birds are only in the UK for a very short period of time, from May to August. With uncertain summer weather the birds need to fly further to find food; perhaps this is the reason for their demise? Even, if by the time you read this, the swifts have started their journey south, your help is urgently required in the Swift Survey. See http://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/Project_Swift_Net.asp . This link is for anyone who can report where swifts have been seen this summer in Tayside. Many Biodiversity Partnerships in Scotland are asking for sightings of swifts so if you can help, please contact

Clare Darlaston of Concern for Swifts Scotland – swiftscot@yahoo.co.uk or check the website www.concernforswifts.com.

There is plenty of time to join in the Bumblebee



Illustration: Nick Owens

Survey and there are still a few ZOOM Bumblebee Packs available to anyone in Tayside – price £8.50 they include a full-colour booklet about bumblebees, wildflower seeds, bee survey information, badge and a surprise gift! All they ask is that the survey form is filled in and returned by late September. See http://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/Project_Bumblebee.html Packs (and survey forms) are available from Catherine Lloyd, Tayside Biodiversity Partnership – 01382 433042 or Tayside.biodiversity@ukf.net.

Award Winning Churches

Skene and Trinity Parish Churches, Aberdeenshire These two churches have very different buildings. Skene is an old traditional building and the Trinity building at Westhill is modern, multi-use and shared with two other churches and the community. Environmental care is an integral part of their Christian commitment. Sketches, prayers, poetry, readings and music are all used to get the message over in services. The congregation recycles a large range of items, uses environmentally friendly cleaning materials and takes care to minimise their carbon footprint. They also encourage the user groups to become involved in their creation care activities. Measures are already in place to encourage wildlife and a hay meadow is planned for the field adjoining the Skene church.

Wardie Parish Church - Second Award! At Wardie creation care has been integrated into the life and work of the church and has become part of the “culture”. A large number of church organisations are involved. The church has tried to involve other local congregations in the programme and given great support to the development of the Edinburgh Eco-Congregation network. See www.wardie.org.uk

Auchtergaven and Moneydie Parish Church, Bankfoot Following a fire in 2004, which destroyed much of their 18th century church building, the congregation decided to embark on an ambitious new build based on the principles of sustainability. The construction of the building incorporates many environmentally friendly features, including the use of a ground source heat pump, which is powered by electricity generated from two wind turbines. Wherever possible they have used recycled and natural materials.



In trying to contribute to economic sustainability, they have used as many local materials and contractors as practical. The church itself will be used for much more than Sunday worship and incorporates facilities which will contribute social sustainability: a soft play area, a day care centre for the elderly, space for specialist health services (which will save a journey into Perth), a games hall, and a youth space and cafe. See www.bankfoot.org.uk

Dunscore Parish Church - Second Award! The congregation has incorporated an inspiring array of caring for creation projects into the life and work of the church. They have worked to involve the whole local community. The eco-group is always open to new ideas and has been prepared to research issues and learn as they move on. Among numerous projects they are working to establish Dunscore as a Fair Trade village, have talks and walks programmes, which are open to all, providing information on the issues and witnessing to the church’s commitment and they have built strong links with a congregation in Ndola, Zambia. See www.dunscorechurch.co.uk

Torphichen Parish Church - Second Award! The congregation is taking action on a wide range of sustainability issues, including waste, biodiversity, energy use and working with the local community. Their projects show creativity and inventiveness, such as the writing of prayers and hymns, the manufacture and selling of recycled jewelry and other art projects. They work in close partnership with a church in Magina, Kenya. In working towards their second award they have promoted the programme to other churches through their support of the West Lothian and Falkirk network of Eco-Congregation churches. They have also been involved in outreach to churches in other parts of the country, beyond their local area. See www.thekirk.torphichen.org

Fairlie Parish Church - Second Award! The congregation at Fairlie has made good progress with their Eco-Congregation work in spite of having a vacancy for some time. Their work has included



strong support for the Fairlie Garden Community Enterprise (recently featured on the “Beechgrove Garden”!), a week long beach and village clean up, continued involvement in recycling activities and care for their building and grounds including energy efficiency measures. See www.fairlieparish.co.uk

Resources Review

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: Our year of Seasonal Eating, Barbara Kingsolver (with Steven L. Hopp and Camille Kingsolver), Faber and Faber (2007)
ISBN 978 0 571 23356 4.

With all the discussion of food miles and eating local food it is good to follow a family who spent a year eating only food that they could grow themselves or could purchase locally. Barbara Kingsolver is the author of "The Poisonwood Bible". She is not only an excellent writer but a worthy biologist.

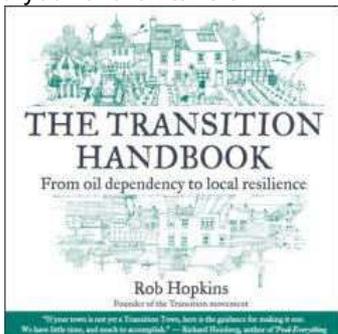
Kingsolver and her family moved from Arizona to West Virginia to a smallholding in the Appalachian Mountains. They wanted to see if they "... could step off the industrial food production and delivery system". They wanted to enjoy food that they knew where it had come from and it had not travelled far. The plan was to take a year on this project. They started with the first signs of the growing season; the appearance of asparagus shoots in April. Once they started they could only purchase things outside the county if it could be justified. Salt and spices and sugar which were needed for preserving came into that category.

The book is excellent in describing the problems and the monotony of the diet at the start. They deal with the gluts of produce by canning and preserving and provide food for later in the winter. This may sound a dull read. It was not. I was totally absorbed not only with Kingsolver's essays for each month but also the articles from Hopp who develops some of the issues about food and food production. There are recipes from Camille Kingsolver to encourage others to follow their example.

I do not suggest that we can all emulate this family. They were in exceptional situation but I find myself looking at my groceries with a more informed and critical eye. The farmers' markets and other local suppliers have risen in my priority.

If you are concerned about food and fuel read this book and do some thinking.
Reviewed by Sheena Wurthmann – convenor of the Glasgow network

Transition Towns Could your church take a lead in setting up or simply get involved with a local Transition Towns initiative? The Transition Towns movement aims to address the question: "for all those aspects of life that this community needs in order to sustain itself and thrive, how do we significantly increase resilience (to mitigate the effects of Peak Oil) and drastically



reduce carbon emissions (to mitigate the effects of Climate Change)?" **The Transition Handbook** by Rob Hopkins is available from www.transitiontowns.org

Hope for Creation: a time for worship and action Churches Together in Britain and Ireland has put together a programme of resources with this title (see www.ctbi.org.uk/339/) to encourage and assist churches to observe a Time for Creation in 2008, between 1 September and 4 October. Central to these resources are sermon materials prepared by Rev. Dave Bookless, National Director of A Rocha UK, with a choice of two 5 week frameworks, one based on the Lord's Prayer and one on the Revised Common Lectionary. The materials are flexible, so it is possible either to follow the whole 5 weeks or to dip into the material and use it as required. The Lord's Prayer materials, in particular, are suitable for a less formal or all-age setting.

Amber Links is a website designed to help people respond effectively to climate change: information for sustainable living, links to hundreds of useful websites, opportunities to share experience and tips. No adverts, no registration, no membership; just a site for shared information. <http://www.amberlinks.org>



Switch on to Climate Change project: Resources and participatory workshops on climate change produced by Scottish Education and Action for Development (SEAD) for community groups are available from Lorraine McCauley at: lorraine@sead.org.uk, or on 0131 555 5550.

Care for the World by Rev Chris Stafford - a book of resources for primary children. Ideal for use in all-age worship. Available from www.kevinmayhewltd.com

Living with the Planet "making a difference in a time of climate change" by Catherine von Ruhland. £10.99 Published by Lion.

Hell and High Water by Alastair McIntosh, addressing the fundamental issue of our addictive mentality: wants have replaced needs... Published by Birlinn Press, Edinburgh

Eccell is a resource for use with small groups to raise awareness of the urgency of the need for action, both spiritual and practical. It is in the form of a flexible course on a single CD at a cost of £5 including postage. It can be purchased from Pete Redwood, 41 West Bank, Scarborough, YO12 4DX. Cheques payable to Christian Ecology Link

Paint the Church Green - A group course by Ellen Teague. Six sessions. www.christian-ecology.org.uk/resources.htm#teague

Between the Flood and the Rainbow - new Operation Noah study guide on Climate Change - agendas for 6 meetings. Supported by CAFOD, Columban Faith and Justice and the National Justice and Peace Network. Book (£6.00) available from Operation Noah, The Grayston Centre, 28 Charles Square, London N1 6HT or downloadable from www.operationnoah.org/resources/liturgicalresources/between-flood-and-rainbow

Stem The Tide - Methodist church website on climate change www.stemthetide.org.uk encourages local churches to have a month of action.

Methodist, URC and Baptist churches are all being encouraged to take steps to reduce their carbon footprint and to campaign on the issue of climate change. For more information visit the joint website www.creationchallenge.org.uk

Recycling old video tapes: Take old VHS tapes to your local charity shop. Or send tapes to people who make the actual tape into new products like bags (see www.myrecycledbags.com/category/vcr-video-tape-crafts/). If you want to get rid of the tapes completely, you can send them to: The Recycling People, Unit 1 Wolf Business Park, Alton Road, Ross-on-Wye Herefordshire, HR9 5NB. There is a charge to recycle these tapes, which is £5.85 for up to 50 pieces – plus p&p. For further details you can contact recycle@keymood.co.uk. They also take CD, DVD and audio cassettes.

Make your own shopping bag: Would you like to set up or join a group to make bags out of old materials, curtains, bedspreads, etc? The website www.morsbags.com shows how to make the bags, and the number of bags made to date.

Bats in Churches: A new guide produced by Natural England but with a lot of helpful information for churches hosting bats anywhere. See www.bats.org.uk/pages/bats_in_churches.html

Prayer

Creation Kyrie : Lord have mercy

Upon all who seek to care for our world,

Lord have mercy.

Upon all who seek to preserve and conserve the earth's goodness,

Lord have mercy.

Upon all who work as your co-creators,

Lord have mercy.

Upon all those who work in dark and dangerous places,

Christ have mercy.

Upon all those who suffer through pollution,

Christ have mercy.

Upon all those whose land has been spoiled by war,

Christ have mercy.

Upon all those who work on land or the sea,

Lord have mercy.

Upon all artists, writers and craftspeople,

Lord have mercy.

Upon all who seek to make this world beautiful,

Lord have mercy.

David Adam, The Rhythm of Life, SPCK, 1996

Quote

from the Quaker Living Witness Project 'earthQuaker' a poster drawn by 8 year old Charlie Ewins. Contains the words:

"Everyone's heard about reduce, reuse and recycle, so here's three more: Refuse. Don't get what you don't need so you can just throw it away. Repair: if something is broken don't replace it, repair it. Rejoice Rejoice in what you already have. This world is brilliant - much better than a Play Station 3. So think about how lucky you are and cherish it."

Dates for your diary

August

2 - 17 Marine week

www.wildlifetrusts.org/index.php?section=places:events:marineweek

16 A Rocha Scotland Friends Day, Dunkeld

Contact: Tel 07980 566448

Victoria.deschampsneufs@arocha.org

22 - 24 European Bat weekend www.bats.org.uk

29 - 31 Global Warming Weekend, Arbroath Old and

Abbey Church. Contact Jenny Lyon

jennylyon@sky.com

September

1 - 4 Oct Creation Time see Resources section and

www.ctbi.org.uk/339

4 Aberdeen Network – One Planet Living Workshop, 7.30pm at Sheddocksley Baptist Church

Contact margaret@ecocongregation.org.uk

6 Christian Aid Transformation Event:

Dewars Centre, Perth

6 Eco-Congregation Workshop for Glasgow and Galloway Diocese, Holy Trinity Church, Ayr. Contact: lindawhitby@btopenworld.com

6 - 21 Organic fortnight www.organicweek.org

9 Community Action for Energy (CAfE) free training course targeted at individuals with existing community based energy projects.

'The Melting Pot' in Edinburgh. Call 0844 848 0077 or email cafe@est.org.uk.

10 Perth Network Meeting 7.30pm St Matthews. Contact Morag Green 01738 643459 or greenup@tiscali.co.uk

15 Glasgow Network 7.30pm at Wellington Church. Contact Sheena Wurthmann iswu@gcal.ac.uk

16 - 22 Beachwatch weekend www.organicweek.org

September cont.

- 22 **One-day event for the promotion of Ground Source Heat Pumps in Scotland**
9.am - 6.30.pm
South Hall Complex, Pollock Halls, University of Edinburgh.
<http://www.gshpscotlandevent.org>
- 22 **In town without my car day**
www.mobilityweek-europe.org/
<http://www.ramblers.org.uk/>
- 23 - 23 **Oct Seed Gathering Season**
www.treecouncil.org.uk
- 24 - 28 **7th ECEN Assembly, Milan**, The True Challenge of Climate Change
www.ecen.org

October

- 2 **Growing, Greener, Communities'**
Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens Scotland Conference. SNH, Battleby
Contact Juliet Wilson on 0131 623 7058
juliet@farmgarden.org.uk or see
www.farmgarden.org.uk
- 4 - 12 **Red Squirrel Week**
<http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/index.php?section=places:events:redsquirrelweek>
- 10 **Falkirk and West Lothian Network** 7.30pm
at Knightsridge Church, Livingston
Contact Marjorie McGhie
marjmcghie@blueyonder.co.uk
- 11 **Edinburgh Climate Change Conference**
9.30am - 4.45pm,
The Performing Arts Centre, Stewart Melville College, Edinburgh
www.edinburghclimate.net
- 19 - 26 **One World Week**: theme "Growing Together"
www.oneworldweek.org
- 21 **Apple Day** www.commonground.org.uk
- 27 **Feed the Birds Day**
www.rspb.org.uk/feedthebirds



November

- 10 **Glasgow Network** 7.30pm at Wellington Church. Contact Sheena Wurthmann
iswu@gcal.ac.uk
- 26 - 7 **Dec National Tree Week**
www.treecouncil.org.uk

December

- 6 **Climate March** Glasgow to coincide with the UN Climate talks in Poznan.
www.globalclimatecampaign.org/

The Scottish Wildlife Trust organises a wide variety of events (www.swt.org.uk/events) and Christian Ecology Link lists environmental events (www.christian-ecology.org.uk/whatson.htm)
The Diary page on our web site is regularly updated with new events. If you would like more information

about an event but cannot access the relevant webpage, please contact us.

Contact Us

Keep in touch!

For environmental and financial reasons the main circulation of the newsletter is now by email. Please ensure you keep us informed of any changes to your email address. Registered churches still receive a copy by post but let us know if you would prefer email – it's in colour, and you can forward it on to your green team. We welcome new recipients of the newsletter. If it has been forwarded to you, email ecocongregation@sctp.org.uk to receive future issues.

Register your church

Registering on the Eco-Congregation programme is easy and free. It gives your church access to free resources, the chance to be part of a local network, and to work towards an Eco-Congregation Award. It's now easy to register contact us for a form or see www.ecocongregation.org/scotland

To enquire about the programme and request an introduction pack contact:

Alan Whitson

Phone: 0131 225 5722

Email: awhitson@cofscotland.org.uk

Eco-Congregation Scotland
Church and Society Council
Church of Scotland
121 George Street
Edinburgh EH2 4YN

For advice and support contact:

Adrian Shaw

Phone: 0131 240 2250

Email: ashaw@cofscotland.org.uk

Address as above

OR

Margaret Warnock

Phone: 01877 330182

Email: margaret@ecocongregation.org.uk

Eco-Congregation Scotland
Keep Scotland Beautiful
Livilands Lane
Stirling FK8 2BG

Website: www.ecocongregation.org/scotland

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Printed on 100% recycled paper

Here to help everyone save energy

We are a non-profit organisation that provides free impartial advice tailored to suit you. Our advice can help you save money and fight climate change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions from your home, church or church buildings

Energy Saving Scotland advice centres

Our new advice centres can give you free, independent and local advice and help you with any queries you have about grants and offers – call **0800 512 012** to speak to one of our advisers. On our website you can also find the top 10 energy saving measures and use our carbon cutter to calculate and reduce your carbon footprint www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

Energy saving grants and offers

To help with costs, there are a number of grants and offers available towards the installation of energy efficiency measures in your house – such as cavity wall insulation and loft insulation. There are also grants available towards the cost of installing renewable technologies, such as microwind turbines and solar water heating panels.

Who supplies the grants and offers?

The grants and offers come from three main sources:

The Scottish Government

1. Interested in renewable energy?

We operate the Scottish Community and Householder Renewables Initiative on behalf of the Scottish Government, which encourages householders and communities to install micro generation technologies such as solar water heating, small scale wind turbines and heat pumps. Grants of 30%, up to £4,000 are available for householders towards the cost of installing renewable energy technologies. Contact the SCHRI hotline on 0800 138 8858. This can be accessed by Eco-Congregations for church buildings



2. Over 60?

The Scottish Government's Central Heating Programme provides central heating, insulation and advice. It is available to all households in the private sector who lack central heating and where the householder or partner is aged 60 or over. Contact Scottish Gas on 0800 316 1653. Additionally if you or your spouse are in receipt of certain income-related benefits, or are aged 60 or over, you may be eligible for a grant of up to £500 to have your home insulated under the Scottish Government's Warm Deal. Contact Scottish Gas on 0800 316 6009.

Energy Suppliers

Under a Government scheme, energy suppliers are obliged to encourage people to use energy more efficiently by helping with the supply and costs of installation of energy saving measures and providing advice on energy efficiency. What's more you can take up offers from any of the energy companies, regardless of who supplies your gas and electricity. Contact your advice centre on 0800 512 012 for information about deals available locally.

Local authorities

Most local authorities provide grants and offers for local residents to install certain energy efficiency measures in their home.

Visit: www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/gid which provides details of some of the grants and offers available to you based on your circumstances, type of home you live in and location. Alternatively call 0800 512 012 to speak to an adviser.



Grants for community groups, such as churches, public, private and not for profit sector organisations.

We can also provide advice on energy saving measures and renewable grants for community groups, public, private and not for profit sector organisations.

Community Action for Energy (CAfE)

CAfE is a network of people who share a common interest in community-base energy projects and ideas. Membership of the network is free and by joining you can keep up to date with news on community-based energy initiatives, as well as hearing about funding opportunities, training sessions and other news from the network. To join the network call 0844 848 0077 or visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/cafe

Business advice (SME's)

Our free business advice service can help businesses and not for profit organisations like churches use energy more efficiently and reduce resource use. This can help drive costs down and help the environment at the same time. Call 0845 458 5040 to speak to your local business adviser.

Our work in Scotland is funded by the Scottish Government.