



*Following Christ
Spreading the Word
Serving the Community*

Eco Congregation Scotland: www.ecocongregationscotland.org

Eco-Congregation Scotland is a movement of Scottish church congregations, of all denominations, committed to addressing environmental issues through life and mission. Founded in 2001, it became a registered charity in 2010.

Vision: A Scotland that cares for God's creation, now and forever

Christians and the environment

Christian concern for the environment has become increasingly important in recent years. In part this is a response to the realisation of the detrimental impact that human activity is having on the environment, in part because of the growing interest in green or eco-theology.

Both the Bible and Christian tradition have some vital and profound insights into care of what the world terms the 'environment' but which the Church understands as God's creation. Approaching environmental issues through Christian 'lenses' offers valuable ethical and spiritual dimensions that may contribute to environmental work both within and outside the church. It is also an approach filled with hope. So often, environmental issues are dealt with against a background of fear and threat. We should stop doing activity X because otherwise environmental problem Y will happen. Without minimising the gravity, scale or urgency of environmental issues, the starting point for caring for the earth for Christians is a proper response to a loving, creating God. Caring for creation is a key Christian task.

Exploring 'green Christianity' can be a positive, enjoyable and fulfilling part of Christian discipleship. As with all theology, Christian care for the environment needs to be rooted in a consideration of Biblical heritage.

Values:

- We care passionately for God's creation
- We are a faith-based movement
- We are rooted in local groups of Christians
- We work cooperatively with each other and with others who care about the environment
- We encourage transformational change at individual, community and national levels

There are over 450 eco-congregations in Scotland: approximately 12% of all Scottish churches. By registering with Eco-Congregation Scotland it is a statement that a church is concerned about the environment and wants to do something about it.

Mission:

- In prayer, worship and conversation we discover what it means to care for God's creation
- We put that care into action individually, locally, nationally and globally, desiring to live justly in a transformed world
- We commit ourselves to campaigning on urgent threats to the web of life in our vulnerable world

Programme:

- **Spiritual Living:** making the link between environmental issues and the Christian faith
- **Practical Living:** taking practical action in the church and home to reduce our environmental impact
- **Global Living:** influencing attitudes to take action in the local or global community on issues like climate change.

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