

Diocese of Westminster
The Road to Carbon Neutrality

(DRAFT)

Step-By-Step Guidelines

and

Audit for Parishes



“God saw all that he had made, and behold it was very good.”
(Genesis 1:31)

Prayer of St Francis

Praised be You, my Lord, with all your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
who is the day through whom you give us light.

And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour,
and bears a likeness of you, Most High.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
In heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Wind and through the Air,
cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather through whom
you give sustenance to your creatures.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Water,
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom you light the night,
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Diocese of Westminster
Property Services and Justice & Peace Commission
March 2022

TOWARDS A GOAL OF CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2030

“The Diocese will do its utmost to become carbon neutral by 2030. This aim is full of challenges. It can only be achieved with all stakeholders participating in this endeavour.”
(Trustees Statement, July 2021)

The Diocese of Westminster announced in July 2021 the aim of becoming carbon neutral by 2030 in its parishes and curial buildings. It has also expressed its commitment to working with schools to encourage them to follow the same path. As Pope Francis explains in *Laudato Si'*, caring for God's created world and cooperating with the Holy Spirit in this work of creation is everyone's responsibility, not least that of the faithful.

Watch the video with Cardinal Vincent Nichols and read the accompanying documents on the website to find out more about this journey the Diocese is on.



<https://rcdow.org.uk/news/carbon-neutrality/>

AIMS

This Step-By-Step Guideline aims to:

- 1) To encourage large and small actions in parishes that will reduce carbon emissions.
- 2) Improve accuracy in recording and reporting Parish Energy Usage.

We need to establish a baseline for each Parish and across the Diocese as a whole, in order to assess the effectiveness of efficiency measures and demonstrate actual reductions in emissions.

- 3) Establish the habit of taking a regular Parish Environment Audit.

The audit should enable parishes to understand what they are already doing well, assess areas for improvement and prioritise actions for further carbon emissions reduction.

GETTING STARTED – UNDERSTANDING EMISSIONS

Calculate your personal carbon footprint using this online tool:

<https://www.carbonindependent.org>

You can use this questionnaire to get a quick estimate of the CO2 emissions for which you are responsible over a 12-month period in just a few minutes with no bills needed.

Share the link in the parish newsletter to encourage parishioners to understand the current starting point for carbon emissions.

Average CO2 emissions: tonnes per person per year	
How your total compares to the rest of the world:	
Your total	_____
World average	4.4
UK average*	14.1
USA	17.6
China	6.2
India	1.8
Mozambique	0.3

*The figure for the UK includes adjustments for greenhouse gases other than CO2. The figures for the other countries do not, as these are not so readily available.

International Comparisons

World CO2 Emissions

The total was about 36 billion tonnes in 2019.
As the population is 7.9 billion, this is 4.6 tonnes per person per year.

UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Total emissions were around 930 million tonnes CO2-e per year in 2015, including imports/exports and aviation. As the population is 66 million, this is 14.1 tonnes per person per year.

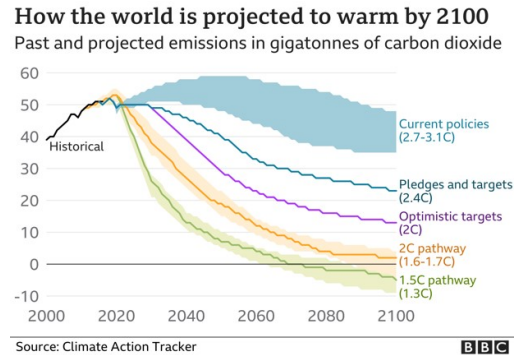
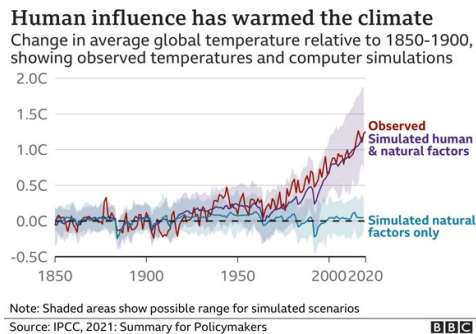
Mozambique CO2 Emissions

Emissions were 8.3 million tonnes in 2018.
As the population is 29 million, this is 0.3 tonnes per person per year.

WHY DO WE NEED TO REDUCE OUR CARBON EMISSIONS?

This guide is being written as COP26 is taking place in Glasgow (1-12 November 2021).

The 25 previous UN Climate Change Conferences have not resulted in any cuts in emissions. Instead, emissions have continued to increase and dramatic action is now needed to cut fossil fuel consumption and move towards renewable energy sources and sustainable environmental practices. It is hoped that world governments and business leaders will take the tough decisions necessary to agree and implement policies that will make this possible.



HOW ARE WE DOING THIS?

There remains a need at individual and local level to take every step possible to contribute to these global targets for carbon emissions reduction. The Diocese has identified four main pillars for improvement in order to reach carbon neutrality by 2030:

1. Clean Energy Sources
2. Investment Policy (Divestment?)
3. Reducing Carbon Emissions from Energy Usage in Parishes and Diocesan Buildings.
4. Generating Clean Energy

<https://rcdow.org.uk/news/diocese-committed-to-do-its-utmost-to-become-carbon-neutral-by-2030/>

These step-by-step guidelines focus primarily on reducing emissions in parishes, with some consideration of whether clean energy generation might be an option in some instances.

CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

In their 2019 document *Guardians of God's Creation*, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales set out their commitment to respond to the ecological crisis. Salford Diocese has partnered with St Mary's University and the Laudato Si' Research Institute, Campion Hall, Oxford University, to develop a comprehensive program of research to assist with this. The 'Guardians of Creation' project will offer further assistance to the Dioceses of England and Wales as it develops. Find full details at:

<https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/research/areas/theology-and-ethics/guardians-of-creation/about.aspx>

SEVEN STEPS FOR PARISHES

STEP 1 – ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION

Begin by reflecting on the current state of nature and its place in your parish life. We are all being called to a process of conversion if we are to halt the changes in our climate and the devastation of the natural world. Each person and each parish has a part to play.

STEP 2 – CHOOSE A GREEN ENERGY SUPPLIER

All parishes are currently being asked to purchase energy from Interdiocesan Fuel Management (IFM). The use of a single supplier enables us to track our overall carbon emissions as a Diocese and work towards their reduction.

STEP 3 – COMPLETE THE ANNUAL CARBON USAGE FORM

The simplest and most important act parishes can take is to record and monitor quarterly cost and usage for Gas, Water and Electricity. The goal is to see a decrease in energy use year on year. A copy of this form can be kept where it is easy to access next year.

STEP 4 – COMPLETE THE BOILER INVENTORY

A major source of energy use in every building is the boiler(s) for heating and hot water. Completing the inventory on the age and maintenance status of boilers and pipework in presbytery, church and hall helps with understanding the likely need for maintenance or replacement in the future.

STEP 5 – COMPLETE THE PARISH ENVIRONMENT CHECKLIST

There are many small ways to keep carbon emissions low as well as larger initiatives that could make a significant difference, while remaining manageable for a parish to achieve. With a small parish environment team, use the checklist to assess what you already do well and what needs to be prioritised in the next twelve months. Arrange to review periodically.

STEP 6 – SET PARISH PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR THE COMING YEAR

Based on the results of the checklist, you are invited to set priorities for the coming year that can also include celebration of the times and seasons of creation. Six are suggested but it can be more or less according to your parish circumstances. This can be done in conjunction with the CAFOD Live Simply Award, if you do not already have it.

STEP 7 – ON-GOING ENGAGEMENT OF THE PARISH

All parishes are encouraged to make the care of creation a high priority in the coming years, with particular attention paid to carbon reduction but also an on-going experience of the call to ecological conversion and renewed connection to the natural world.

STEP 1 - Ecological Conversion

POPE FRANCIS AND LAUDATO SI'

Pope Francis wrote his 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, to call for global ecological conversion.

“There is a growing sensitivity to the environment and the need to protect nature, along with a growing concern, both genuine and distressing, for what is happening to our planet... Our goal is not to amass information or to satisfy curiosity, but rather to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it.” *Laudato Si'* (19)

Parishes can facilitate this conversion through preaching and prayer, liturgy and study, projects and groups. On-going conversations about our responsibilities to care for creation can also be a part of the Synodal Pathway on which we are currently engaged. Particular times and seasons can be very helpful for renewing our commitment throughout the year:

TIMES AND SEASONS

- ♥ **Lent** – the penitential nature of the six weeks leading up to Easter makes this a good time of the year to examine our relationship to creation and resolve to make amends.
- ♥ **Laudato Si' Week** – we are invited to revisit the *Laudato Si'* encyclical every year in the week leading up to the anniversary of its publication: 24th May 2015
<https://laudatosiweek.org/>
- ♥ **Season of Creation** – we celebrate the great gift of creation ecumenically across all Christian traditions annually from 1st September to 4th October
<https://seasonofcreation.org/>
- ♥ **Climate Sunday** – a Climate Sunday Service can be celebrated at any time.
<https://www.climatesunday.org/>

PASTORAL CARE

An important aspect to consider is the growing rise of climate anxiety and climate grief as many people struggle in the face of the daunting risks and threats of climate change and ecological breakdown. Growing attention will need to be paid to how we respond with pastoral care and love for one another at this time, resolving to be messengers of hope. The parish can also provide opportunities for repentance and forgiveness for the damage we have done to the earth, whether in individual confessions or collective times of sorrow.

NATURE PROJECTS

There are many other life-giving ways to engage with nature, in addition to the Decarbonisation Strategy. We encourage you to develop your parish grounds and find ever new ways to enjoy parish activities outdoors. You can take part in national events like the Big Garden Birdwatch in January or the Big Butterfly Count in the summer, as well as offering support for your local parks and gardens. We are blessed with many beautiful green spaces in London and Hertfordshire and we can all contribute to preserving them.

STEP 1

2022

Ecological Conversion

Name of Parish: _____

Describe in a few sentences the relationship your Parish has to the created world.

(E.g. Is there existing good awareness of the environment, care for grounds and thought given to the use of energy in buildings? Is there an individual or a group who has particular responsibility for the care of creation within the parish or beyond? Has Laudato Si' been introduced to the Parish, perhaps via quotes in the newsletter or a reading group? Have you used materials from other sources such as CAFOD or the Global Healing films from the Catholic Bishops Conference? Do you already celebrate times and seasons related to creation, such as Laudato Si' Week, Harvest Festival or the Season of Creation? Do you make use of flowers and plants indoors and out? Is an understanding of environmental sin part of the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Is there anything else you would like to share?)

STEP 2

2021

Choose a Green Energy Supplier

WHO IS YOUR ENERGY SUPPLIER?

A) Interdiocesan Fuel Management (IFM)

Year started: _____

B) Not IFM

Name of Supplier: _____

Future plans

- i) Continue with other supplier YES / NO
- ii) Switch to IFM in: _____ (Year)

ABOUT THE INTERDIOCESAN FUEL MANAGEMENT SUPPLIER

The recent Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS) review, which excluded school sites, showed that, in 2020, the charity consumed around 31.8M kilowatt hour (KWH), of which 22% electricity and around 78% gas. 91% of this energy is supplied by Interdiocesan Fuel Management (IFM), a Catholic mutual owned by all the dioceses in England and Wales.

Because 100% of the IFM electricity is sourced from renewable energy and 80% of the gas supply comes from the by-products of biological processes (and the rest is offset due to the limited size of the market for bio gas), it can be stated that 75% of the total supply is purely from green sources, or 91% of the supply is from green sources with offset. As the bio gas market expands in the next couple of years, we expect that 100% of our gas will be produced from the by-product of biological processes.

STEP 3**2021****Annual Gas, Electricity and Water Usage Form**

Parish	
Address	
Building (s)	
Completed By	

GAS	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Bill date					
Usage (kWh / hrs)					
Cost (£)					

ELECTRICITY	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Bill date					
Usage (kWh / hrs)					
Cost (£)					

WATER	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Bill date					
Usage (m ³)					
Cost (£)					

STEP 4

<h1 style="margin: 0;">2021</h1>

Boiler Inventory

Parish	
Address	
Building (church/hall/ Presbytery...)	
Completed By	

Where is the boiler located?	
Which parts of the site does it heat?	
Year of manufacture?	
Description of what you know about the boiler make and function (e.g. Do you have a boiler for heating and hot water together or separately? Do you have a condensing boiler? Where is the heating pump located?)	

Carbon Emissions Reduction Action	Already Done/ Up to Date	Not a priority/ Requires help	Priority for the Coming Year
Are the boiler controls effective or do you think improvements are needed? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAA8d41-JB8			
Is any insulation work needed on the heating pipework?			
Is any work needed on the radiators to upgrade to more efficient radiators?			
Is any work needed on the hot water storage cylinder heated by the boiler (e.g. replacement, lagging, time controls?)			

Estimated Year for Boiler Replacement _____ / Not Known

STEP 5

<h1>2021</h1>

Parish Environment Checklist

Parish	
Address	
Team	

1	Annual Carbon Usage Form Completed	Date:
2	Annual Boiler Inventory Completed	Date:
3	Checklist Completed	Date:

Carbon Emissions Reduction Action	Already Done/ Up to Date	Not a Priority/ Requires Help	Priority for the Coming Year
Energy Monitoring - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_a3c_EbCS0			
Do you have a smart-meter to monitor electricity? <i>(Recommended action)</i>			
Heating - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAA8d41-JB8			
Is heating & hot water programmed to come on only when required? Do they work as programmed or do they need adjustment/fixing?			
Are wall mounted thermostats and radiator control valves secure, working properly and kept at reasonable levels? (Recommended room temperature – 19°C)			
Are the hot water thermostats kept at a reasonable level? (Recommended - 60°C)			
Building Use			
Are one or more smaller spaces needed that can be heated separately to avoid heating whole building?			

Carbon Emissions Reduction Action	Already Done/ Up to Date	Not a Priority/ Requires Help	Priority for the Coming Year
Insulation - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUPb32O5-Ho			
Is there any broken glazing that needs to be repaired or replaced?			
Is draft-proofing needed for any doors or windows?			
Are all pipes, hot water cylinders and pumps lagged properly?			
Are cold water tanks lagged properly?			
Can curtains be fitted to any windows to keep heat in?			
Are there any windows that can be replaced with triple glazed sealed units?			
Ventilation - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwuR_tRpbGw			
Do any windows need to be fixed so that they open properly?			
Can the use of air-conditioning or fans be avoided by other means?			
Lighting			
Are there any lights that can be switched to low energy bulbs?			
Can light sensors be fitted for any external lighting?			
Are more controls possible for lighting?			
Garden/ Grounds			
Is there an area suitable for additional planting or where a tree could grow?			
Water			
Are there any leaking pipes or taps in need of repair?			
Is rainwater stored and reused in garden areas?			
Transport			
Could you install more options for bicycle parking?			
Food			
Are you following LOAF principles (Local, Organic, Animal-friendly, Fairly Traded)?			
Recycling - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSeXWk3UTWQ			
Is all recycling carried out according to your local authority availability? Are you recycling:			
Paper & Cardboard			
Plastic Bottles & Packaging			
Aluminium – including candle holders & cans			
Glass			
Printer Cartridges			
Food Waste			
Green Waste			
Specialist Energy Audit			
Are you interested in commissioning a detailed professional energy audit? (<i>Cost involved</i>)			

Major Projects – Consult Property Office

Do you want to explore further any of the following?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Air Source Heat Pumps | YES/ NO / ALREADY HAVE |
| • Ground Source Heat Pumps | YES/ NO / ALREADY HAVE |
| • Electric Vehicle Charging Points | YES/ NO / ALREADY HAVE |
| • Roof Insulation | YES/ NO / ALREADY HAVE |
| • Smart Meters | YES/ NO / ALREADY HAVE |
| • Solar Panels | YES/ NO / ALREADY HAVE |
| • Wall Cavity Insulation | YES/ NO / ALREADY HAVE |
| • Wind Generator | YES/ NO / ALREADY HAVE |

Please give brief details:

To explore any of these options please contact the Property Service.

Clive Horscroft – Director of Property Services - clivehorscroft@rcdow.org.uk

Telephone: 020 8457 6538

Fundraising

Contact the Diocesan Fundraising Team to explore possible funding options for all sizes of project.

STEP 6

2022

Parish Priority Actions For The Coming Year

Team	
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	Action	Who's Responsible?	Target Date for Review
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

STEP 7 – On-Going Engagement of the Parish

The most effective way to create on-going engagement is to have a dedicated Parish Team responsible for facilitating all aspects of the parish's environment activity.

This can be the Parish Council, a LiveSimply Group, Laudato Si' Circle, a Caritas, CAFOD or Justice & Peace Group or a new Environment Team.

GLOBAL HEALING & GLOBAL CARING FREE FILMS

A useful starting point are the Global Healing and Global Healing films produced by the CAFE team in conjunction with the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, featuring Bishop John Arnold (Lead Bishop for the Environment) and theologian, Dr Carmody Grey. These short films can be shown at a parish discussion evening or shared online to inspire and reassure people that change is both necessary and possible.

<https://faithcafe.org/pages/ourcommonhome>

CAFOD LIVESIMPLY AWARD

One of the best ways to engage a whole Catholic community is to work towards the CAFOD LiveSimply Award. This process can take up to two to three years and involve a parish, school or other body discerning and setting their own goals for change and action around three themes of living more simply, living in solidarity with people in poverty and living sustainably with creation. There is on-going support from CAFOD for communities who have completed the Award. At the time of writing, 6 parishes and 2 schools in Westminster have achieved the Award. We would like to see many more go through this process.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Livesimply-award>

Has your parish registered with CAFOD for the LiveSimply Award?	YES/ NO
Year Registered: _____	
Year Achieved: _____	

PRAY

Above all else, take time to pray. Our hope will be strengthened by our prayer. May our constant request be that the Holy Spirit guide us, strengthen our resolve and 'renew the face of the earth'.

Thank you for completing this audit.

"Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life." *Laudato Si'* (2017), citing *The Earth Charter* (29 June 2000)

Additional Resources

A Rocha / Eco-Church (Ecumenical)

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

CAFOD LiveSimply Award

<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Livesimply-award>

The Climate Coalition – Umbrella Group for over 100 UK Organisations

<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/>

Climate Sunday

<https://www.climatesunday.org/>

Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS) – Government Guidelines

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/energy-savings-opportunity-scheme-esos>

Faiths 4 Climate Justice (Interfaith)

<https://greenfaith.org/faiths4climatejustice/>

Global Healing & Global Caring - Free Films from CBCEW / CAFÉ

<https://faithcafe.org/pages/ourcommonhome>

Green Christian (Ecumenical)

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/>

Guardians of Creation Research Project

<https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/research/areas/theology-and-ethics/guardians-of-creation/about.aspx>

Journey to 2030

<https://journeyto2030.org/>

Laudato Si' Action Platform

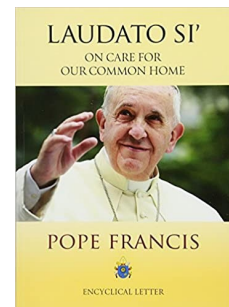
<https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>

Laudato Si': Care for Our Common Home, Pope Francis, 2015

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

Laudato Si' CAFOD Resources

<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Laudato-Si-encyclical>



“The earth is the Lord’s and everything on it”