



The Methodist Church

The South Bedfordshire Circuit

South Bedfordshire Circuit Environmental Action Plan

Action	Initial situation (Feb 2025)	Planned actions and achievements	New actions (May 2026)	Achievements
Register for Eco-Circuit Award and achieve bronze award	Registered August 2024	Achieve bronze by	Specific actions towards this now marked in plan 	
To meet the Methodist aim to have 50% of churches registered with Eco Church by 2026 and 50% of those to have a bronze award and 20% a silver (Section T Action for Hope para 39 Conference agenda 2022)	Already exceeded. As a circuit of 18 churches, we would need 9 registered, 4-5 with bronze awards and 2 with silver: Registered but with no award yet: High Street Legrave, Barton, Oakdale, Kensworth Registered and holding bronze awards: Toddington, St John's and The Square Registered and holding silver awards: Trinity, Harlington, Eaton Bray, Strathmore Avenue, Aley Green	New target	To have all churches at least registered and increase percentage with awards. Farley Hill and Newland (Dunstable) are additionally registered	

Facilitate churches to take advantage of the funded energy efficiency audits from the District	Funding available to those churches which are registered for eco-church (even if not awarded) and which have a mission plan that includes creation care	Refresh Circuit Mission Plan to include appropriate level of Creation Care by 30/4/25 Share information about audits – done March '25 Circuit process agreed with District 28/4/25. Trinity met process and setting up Audit June 25	Shared Resource Library being considered by CLT, and included in Circuit Mission Plan. Encourage wider use of District funded Energy Efficiency Surveys (now additionally undertaken by the Square and Toddington)	
Set up a page on the Circuit website to share stories and ideas, and explore other ways of sharing and celebrating environmental initiatives		Reporting to Circuit Meeting undertaken. Website page went live 5/3/25 see https://www.southbedsmethodist.org.uk/creationcare.htm Use being made of South Bedfordshire Craftivists Facebook page when campaign issues also environmental.	Website page to be updated for new Circuit website, with main page including celebration of news from across the Circuit and tips/challenges  Sub-page for Eco-Circuit journey/timeline	
Run a workshop or eco-day to offer practice sharing and support for those churches working towards becoming Eco-churches		Plan a Circuit resourcing day, not only sessions on eco-issues but others of concern to churches too: eco/finance/property care and projects/stats/GDPR/archiving/EDI/safeguarding/grant application/mission planning No interest from across Circuit for suggested day	Environmental Day to be considered for autumn 2026, possibly jointly with St Alban's Circuit, for all interested personnel and maybe to include producing worship on the issues, a guest speaker, or instead a visit to a Local Authority recycling facility	

 Review investments by Circuit and churches to ensure they are environmentally friendly				
Review manses and if possible, comply with Standing Orders (Book VI Part 2 Guidance Section 1C 3) which states that “Circuits should seek to provide manses to meet a minimum of a ‘C’ energy efficiency rating”, or explain why not.		EPC certificates for manses shared with Eco-team		
Update Circuit grants policy (especially for maintenance and building works and white-good replacement) to reflect environmental concerns				
 Review circuit office and admin functions to reduce eco-footprint		Need to produce policy statement of home-working etc. or High Town needs to gain an award. Printer paper purchase April 2025 of ecological brand Printing kept to a minimum – most communications by email		
Policy for Circuit events to include provision of refreshments that whenever possible are LOAF (Locally-grown, Organic, Animal-friendly, Fair-traded) and reduce waste		Need to work on elimination of provision of bottled water across the circuit Can we have a resource library of equipment to share		

		– eg water cannisters, electrical items etc? Lunch for Listening Day 26/4/25 included crockery rather than disposable plates and cutlery		
Consider travel by public transport and car-sharing to reduce emissions for Circuit and District events		Car-sharing used wherever possible for synod travel		
 Offer training at the Worship Leaders and Preacher Meeting to facilitate preaching on these issues		Get on agenda all the time, input session on eco-awareness		
 Link with other organisations working on these issues - eg Central Beds climate literacy training		Look at nearby churches from other denominations with awards. List obtained. Contact Grassroots about other faith premises. Other faith premises not engaged, Muslim Council of Britain has good resource but no local mosques engaged see https://mcb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/MCB-Eco-Booklet-12.11.21.pdf		
Encourage members to measure and reduce their own eco-footprint - working towards the target of one		Challenge and information on website?		

tonne per year by 2030. (Para 46 of Conference agenda 2022)				
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Updated 29/05/26