

ENVIRONMENT ACTION PLAN

2023 - 2030

Over the years we've used different terms to describe the changes going on with the climate; it started out as 'global warming', then we started talking about 'climate change', and then 'the climate emergency', and now a new phrase - *climate chaos*.

One by one, those descriptions get more honest. It isn't that the world is warming up, which doesn't sound so bad, it's that we are hurtling into chaos.

And the evidence comes from increasingly chaotic patterns of rainfall and drought, in messed up seasons, and in changes to what can and can't grow. And these changes are already affecting millions of people around the world, particularly the poorest people and communities of the world. The point of chaos is that you can't control or predict it, and people whose resources are already very limited are left horribly vulnerable by unpredictability. In the Horn of Africa, 8 million people are facing famine caused by climate change, and in the Sahel 16 million people are affected by conflicts fuelled by climate change. Climate chaos isn't a problem for the future; climate chaos is killing people today, and the people who are suffering are the poorest and most vulnerable.

In the bible, chaos is the enemy of God. Scripture begins with God's creativity and power bringing order out of turmoil and, as the story unfolds, the forces of chaos are seen in war and injustice, in hunger and in drought. And God's response is always for the peace, justice and righteousness which are the opposite of chaos - and it's his people who are his key partners in that work.



This Action Plan for Net Zero is our way of joining God's great work of bringing order to the climate chaos which is causing such suffering. Every one of the practical steps that it describes are ways in which we, in our churches, schools and property, are enacting our commitment to the peace, justice and righteousness which God longs for.

As climate chaos brings more suffering to more people, I pray that God's longing becomes our longing too.

WHAT IS THIS DOCUMENT?

This is a summary of how we plan to achieve the strategic environmental objectives, i.e. Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon, Speak Up.

Behind this document sits a detail set of plans, developed by groups representing core parts of the diocese:

- Creation Care Champions – representing parishes and the cathedral
- Education
- Property
- Glebe
- Investment
- Offices
- Diocesan Advisory Committee
- Finance, Assets and Risk Committee

The Diocese of Truro is committed to being net zero for carbon by 2030.

We recognise this is a challenging timeline, but we refuse to shy away from this clear missional objective and clarion call for all humanity. We cannot sit back whilst our sisters and brothers around the world lose critical habitat, are unable to produce food, suffer either flooding or desertification because of our privileged life choices.





CHERISH CREATION



CUT CARBON



SPEAK UP

JOIN THE CREATION CARE NETWORK

We have created a network that offers you and your parish a fruitful and sustainable path, with support and encouragement along the way.

FIND OUT MORE HERE

trurodiocese.org.uk/resources/creation-care/creation-care-network/

WHY WOULD WE DO THIS?

In March of this year the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Chair - Hoesung Lee - concluded that; "Mainstreaming effective and equitable climate action will not only reduce losses and damages for nature and people, it will also provide wider benefits. This Synthesis Report underscores the urgency of taking more ambitious action and shows that, if we act now, we can still secure a liveable sustainable future for all."

Our Fifth Mark of Mission:

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

JESUS AND JUSTICE ARE INSEPARABLE ALLIES

The missional actions of reducing losses and damages and securing a liveable sustainable future for all are issues of justice and so are at the very core of the person of Jesus. The same then must be true for His Church.

WE ARE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER

The National Church of England 'Route map' was approved at General Synod in July 2022. Prior to this there had been in-depth national consultation through which Truro gave significant feedback. Even before the General Synod approval - Truro in true pioneering fashion - had declared a Climate Emergency, created, and adopted a new Environment Strategy and started on the development of a Net Zero plan.

The route map provides essential milestones for progress towards Net Zero 2030. We will be reporting back in 2025, 2028 & 2031. All 42 dioceses in England have made the same commitment.

'Young people are key drivers of climate action and will be those most affected by the legacy of the climate crisis. Listen to us when we call for ambition and action. Don't drag your heels. Get on with it, in love, grace and humility.'

Young People's Views, supporting document to the Routemap

CUT CARBON

We are a diocese that is carbon net zero by 2030. This means:

- Our churches and church buildings and our cathedral
- Our schools
- Our staff and clergy travel
- Our vicarages and other buildings
- Our offices

HOW WE'LL DO THIS

Provide support to churches and schools to reduce carbon emissions

- Technical advice from the DAC and other experts in renewables, heritage buildings and schools.
- Funding advice and help.
- Training.
- Provide energy audits for the top 20% highest emitting churches and all 45 church schools.

Allocate resources to support the achievement of carbon net zero by 2023

- Upgrade all vicarages to aim for A rated Energy Performance Certificates.
- Explore how diocesan land can be used to help achieve net zero.
- Leverage our funds to secure national funding.
- Pilot ways of reducing emissions from travel.
- Disinvest from fossil fuels and invest in renewables.



CUT CARBON

“Despite dire warnings in the 1980s and the 1990s, we have emitted more CO₂ since 1991 than in the rest of human history.”

- 1750-1990 785 Gigatonnes of CO₂ emitted.
- 1991-2021 948 Gigatonnes of CO₂ emitted.
- The UK is the 5th largest global historic CO₂ emitter.

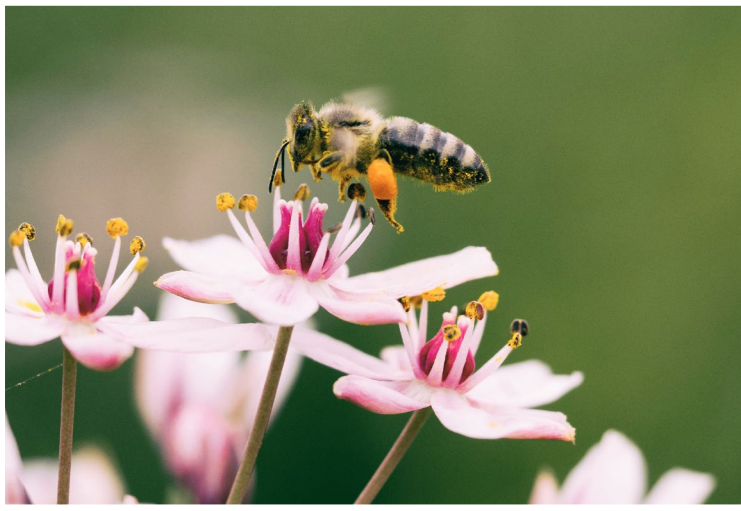
“according to the IPCC’s estimate, our remaining carbon budget for a 67 per cent chance of limiting warming to 1.5degc at the beginning of 2020 was 400 gigatonnes. At the current rate of emissions, we will exceed this carbon budget before 2030.”

Statistics drawn from ‘The Climate Book’ by Greta Thunberg

BECOME A CREATION CARE CHAMPION

The Creation Care Champions support a growing community of churches to respond to the realities of this climate crisis with empathy, knowledge and confidence.’

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CHERISH CREATION

3 highest losses

- 43% decline in bird life
- 31% decline of amphibians & reptiles
- 28% decline of fungi & lichen

“The UK is currently classified as one of the world’s most nature depleted countries”

- 97% of wildflower meadows have been lost since 1930. Which equates to 7.5 million acres

Statistics drawn from National Trust – State of Nature report 2023

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CHERISH CREATION

We are a diocese that cherishes creation. We will encourage and support people to cherish the part of creation that has been entrusted to their care. This means:

- A churchyard
- A school playground
- A back garden
- A local beach

It is looking for ways to give biodiversity a chance.

HOW WE’LL DO THIS

Provide support to churches and schools to cherish creation through meaningful change

- Recruit, support and train Creation Care Champions in churches and schools.
- Support churches to achieve Eco Church awards, subsidising accreditation.
- Support schools to achieve Eco School awards, subsidising accreditation.
- Establish a school of creation theology at Truro Cathedral and a Dean of Creation Care.

Lead by example

- We have become an Eco Diocese.
- Achieve a Gold Eco Church Award for Church House.
- Seek to use our land in more creative ways to benefit the environment.
- Invest in biodiversity.

SPEAK UP

**We are a diocese that Speaks Up.
This means:**

- We will speak and act boldly in our churches to promote the cherishing of creation
- We will speak and act boldly beyond the church to promote the cherishing of creation
- We will call those in power to account.

HOW WE'LL DO THIS

- Use our voices to speak up for Creation wherever we may be.
- Embed our vision for the environment in all that we do.
- Resource our churches and clergy to speak up through training and support.
- Work with existing partners and build new partnerships to increase our reach and impact.

'All of us - whoever and where we are - can play a part in changing our collective response to the unprecedented threat of climate change and environmental degradation'

Archbishop of Canterbury, Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, 2021



SPEAK UP

"When the bathtub is about to overflow, you don't go looking for buckets - you start by turning off the tap."

Greta Thunberg

"Change is often the hardest just before you make it. We too easily focus on what we think we are losing, finding it so much harder to imagine what we might gain."

Kate Raworth

"The critical tipping point for changing everyone's behaviour is a committed minority of 25 per cent."

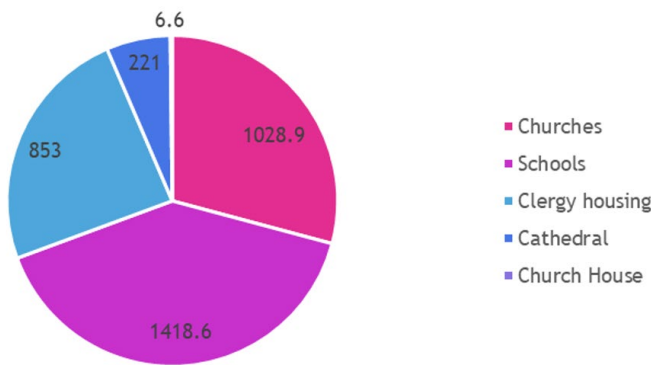
Erica Chenoweth

BECOME A CREATION CARE CHAMPION

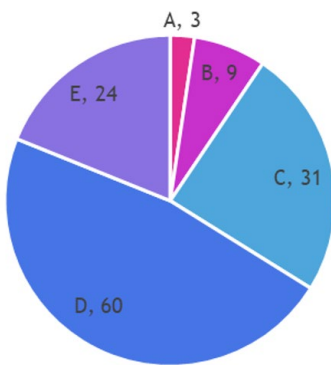
The Creation Care Champions support a growing community of churches to respond to the realities of this climate crisis with empathy, knowledge and confidence.'

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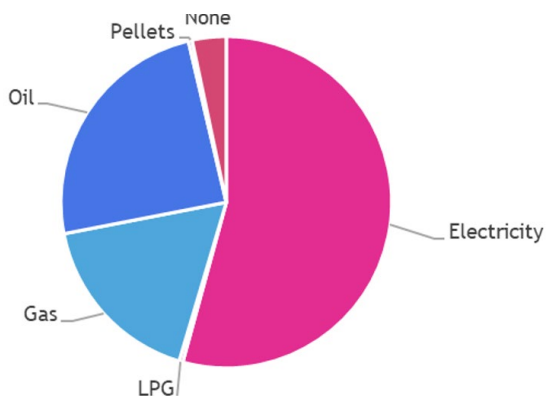
Diocese of Truro 2022 Carbon emissions measured in tonnes



EPC type by property



Primary heating fuel of churches



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WHAT DO WE MEAN BY NET ZERO 2030

This is an ambitious target. The Church of England nationally has defined what is 'in scope,' i.e., what is included in this target. In summary it is the carbon emissions from:

- The energy use of our buildings – churches, vicarages, schools, and offices.
- Work-related travel.

WHERE ARE WE AT NOW?

- 70 Creation Care Champions
- 53 churches registered with Kernow Green Church Award
- 16 churches completed and received Kernow Green Church Award
- 40 churches registered with A Rocha Eco Church
- 9 bronze Eco Church awards
- 6 silver Eco Church awards
- 76% return rate for EFT (225 churches)

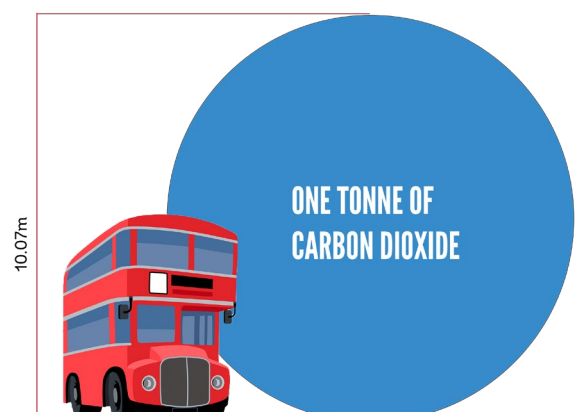
Total emissions 3528 tonnes

(Example equivalents: Blackburn Diocese - similar size, with 261 churches - just church emissions are 2511 tonnes of CO₂; Diocese of London with 460 churches, total emissions 30,000 tonnes).

What does this mean? 176,400 trees growing for a year and absorbing carbon.

HOW WILL WE KNOW IT'S WORKING?

- Measure carbon emissions using the Energy Footprint Tool for each area with annual comparison of emissions.
- Record outcomes like new Energy Performance ratings, Eco Church, and Eco School awards.
- Gather case studies from people, churches, and schools about their progress.
- Learn from how we have changed our investment strategy and land management.
- Seek audacious opportunities for 'Green' and 'biodiverse' projects.
- Celebrate a growing network of Creation Care Champions.



WHAT WILL IT COST?

It is perhaps not that helpful, for us to work out how much it would cost to upgrade every church, school, or vicarage. And, in fact, it is not necessarily in our gift to do that. Instead, we have focussed on what we can do, whilst recognising the need to take very good care of our resources. This is the proposed budget up to 2030:

- Upgrading vicarages £2.5 million.
- Supporting churches £550, 000*.
- Supporting schools £250,000*.
- None of this money will come from MMF payments.

**Over half of these costs are paid for by grant funding from the national church.*

CHALLENGES

It is not going to be easy. It means changing how we do things; prioritising how we use time; seeking out specific skills; allocating resources; and each one of us making a positive choice for the planet and each other.

OFFSETTING - A 'JUST' WAY TO BALANCE THE CARBON BUDGET?

For some churches carbon offsetting through reputed partners could be an option that enables the fruitful and sustainable mission of the church to continue. Rather than implement potentially unachievable and costly capital solutions, the church could partner with organisations like Climate Stewards, an A Rocha project that funds carbon mitigation schemes in the countries worst affected by climate crisis. But this should always be seen as a last resort when all accessible options for carbon reduction have been exhausted.

However, if we can be leaders, as a church, and be ambitious, there are creative and sustainable ways in which we could offset all our diocesan emissions and generate green energy, in Cornwall, for Cornwall – cutting costs for churches and schools at the same time.

'The 2030 target is hugely ambitious, but the process is as important as the target. Every month or year that we delay our progress towards net zero carbon will lead to suffering and even death for our human neighbours and the rest of God's creation.'

Bishop Graham Usher and Bishop John Thom



REMEMBERING WHY THIS MATTERS

The Bible is an inherently green gospel of justice.

From Genesis 2 where the breath of God is breathed into all living things, creating if you will a family lineage. Through Psalm 24 where it declares 'the earth is the Lord's and everything in it'. And into the NT, with Colossians 1:15-17 speaking both of the centrality of God as creator, us as His creation and that it is only through Him that 'all things hold together'.

There are other countless scriptures on governance of land, feeding the hungry, providing for those in need and the praise of All Creation to its Creator!

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WHAT WILL YOU DO:

You can add your own ideas here:

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

A PERSONAL RESPONSE

Every time we turn off a light, turn down our heating, walk or ride instead of drive, choose locally produced food over airfreighted food...we make a choice that changes the world.

You can gather all these choices together by completing your personal carbon footprint via <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/questionnaire> or use the WWF carbon footprint app.

This is a great way to access your impact and Cut Carbon.



A FAMILY RESPONSE

Working together as a family or community of people living together, the CreationCare.org.uk website enables you to measure your impact on the world and creation. Its a great way to set goals that reduce your impact whilst Cherishing Creation.



A CORPORATE RESPONSE

In our church context, heating the person and not the space can hugely reduce your carbon emissions and your energy bills.

A Rocha's Eco Church award is the national benchmark for church engagement in Creation Care. Register your church today online at <https://app.ecochurch.org/user/login>

Starting this journey and registering your church marks your commitment to Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon, Speak Up.



You can also register your church for the Kenow Green Church Award. If you've already completed the Eco Church registration, your already a quarter of the way to successfully achieving the award!



FIND OUT MORE

WEBSITE: trurodiocese.org.uk/resources/creation-care/

EMAIL: creationcare@truro.anglican.org

CALL: 01872 274351

GET IN CONTACT

T 01872 274351

E info@truro.anglican.org

www.trurodiocese.org.uk

Church House, Woodlands Court,
Truro Business Park, Threemilestone,
Truro, TR4 9NH