



# Climate Sunday

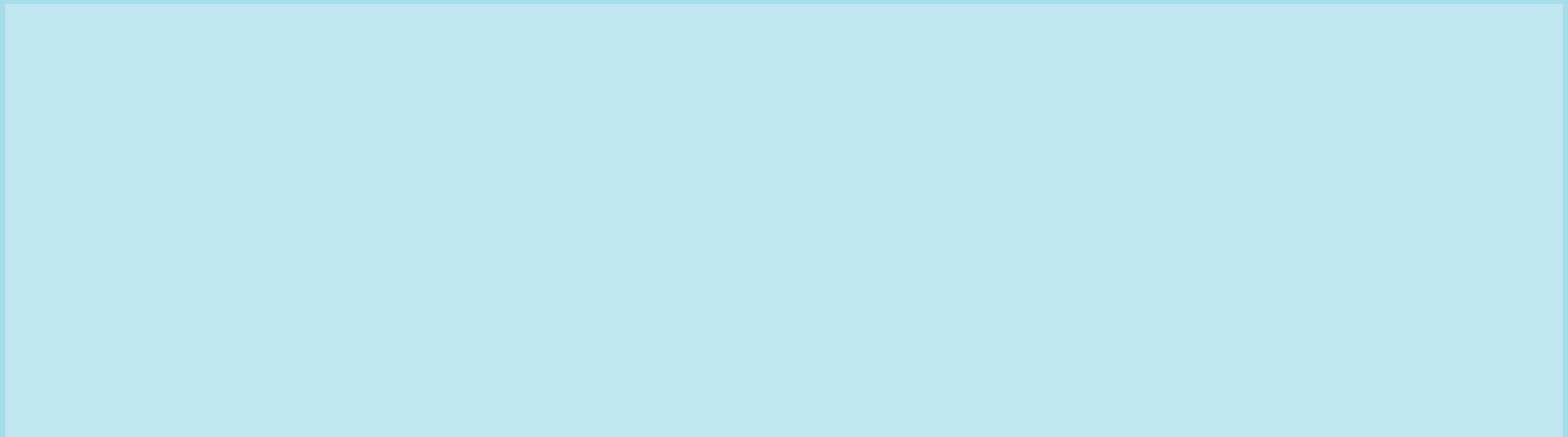
**Join us for our climate-focused service, to explore the theological and scientific basis of creation care and action on climate, to pray, and to commit to action.**

## **Commit**

As a local church community, we are committed to taking long term action to reduce our own greenhouse gas emissions, along with thousands of others who are members of Eco Church.

## **Speak Up**

Use your voice to tell politicians that you want a cleaner, greener, fairer future by signing The Climate Coalition's 'The Time Is Now' declaration at [www.climatesunday.org](http://www.climatesunday.org).



[www.climatesunday.org](http://www.climatesunday.org)

Climate Sunday is an initiative of CTBI's Environmental Issues Network. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales; Company number: 5661787; Charity number 1113299; Registered Office: Interchurch House, 35 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL.

 **THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**  
Environment Programme

Dear colleagues,

Environmental issues are rising fast up the agenda. General Synod has set an ambitious target of becoming net zero carbon by 2030.

Outside the church, all people but especially young people are concerned about the impact of climate change and the crisis nature is facing. This year we've recognised our need to spend time in nature for our own mental and physical health. Also, the UK government is hosting the world as it gathers in Glasgow in November's global climate conference, known as COP26.

Many ask how you and your church can engage with these issues through 2021 and so below are some resources to help you in your engagement with the community, and the environment, around you.

### Where do I start? Climate Sunday

Signing up to Climate Sunday is a powerful and simple first step. At its heart, it asks you to give one of your Sunday services over to a climate-themed service.

You'll find lots of resources at [climatesunday.org](http://climatesunday.org) and new ideas will be added throughout the year. You can use the poster overleaf to advertise your Climate Sunday service. Or use the blank space on the poster to ask for volunteers to organise something.

The Climate Sunday initiative asks your church to commit to two more things:

- Make a long-term commitment to cut your carbon emissions.
- Speak up for a cleaner, greener future.

### Want to make a long-term commitment? Eco Church

The best framework we've found to help you engage with environmental issues in the long-term is Eco Church. [ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk)



It's an award scheme for churches which recognises how a church expresses its care for God's world. It covers worship and teaching, how you look after your buildings and land, how you engage with your local community and global campaigns, and the personal lifestyles of your congregation. It starts with an online survey, and then progresses step-by-step.

You'll be encouraged by how much you are doing already.

### How about speaking up with The Climate Coalition?

The Climate Sunday initiative invites you join with thousands of others and add your name, or your church's name, to the "Time is Now" call for a cleaner, greener future from the Climate Coalition.

This will form the basis of a demonstration to the decision makers at COP26 that people of faith want to see real change, change that is needed for the planet, and especially for the poorest people who live on it. Look out for other ways you can raise your voice as we get nearer to November.

## How do I cut my church's carbon footprint?

Now that we've stepped out in faith and expressed our ambition, we also need to take action to reduce our own carbon footprint and lead by example. As well as support from your diocese, we've developed a set of central resources to help you. [www.churchofengland.org/environment](http://www.churchofengland.org/environment)

**Practical path to net zero carbon**  
Read the two-page guidance note for practical advice on where to start.  
[bit.ly/PPtoNZ](http://bit.ly/PPtoNZ)

**Webinar programme**  
Free webinars on heating, lighting, solar panels and far more.  
[bit.ly/NZwebinars](http://bit.ly/NZwebinars)

**Case studies on our website**  
Read what other churches have already done to cut their carbon.  
[bit.ly/NZCcases](http://bit.ly/NZCcases)

**Energy footprint tool**  
Find out your start point with the easy-to-use Energy Footprint Tool (restarting in 2021).

### Want to take it even further?

**Declare a Climate Emergency**  
If your church is already involved in a lot of these things, you might want to take it further, declare a climate emergency as a church community, and set your own target to become 'net zero carbon'.  
Check out the Climate Emergency Toolkit for more ideas. [climateemergencytoolkit.com](http://climateemergencytoolkit.com)

**Have an energy audit**  
An energy audit will give you a tailored report for your church, telling you where to start, and what larger projects to consider next. Each action will have estimated costs and carbon savings.  
Go to the Parish Buying website or ask your diocese.

### Churches Count on Nature

From 5-13th June, you or a local wildlife group can arrange a "Churches Count on Nature" event in your churchyard, spotting the plants, insects, birdlife and lichens that make our churchyards so special. Perhaps your local school would like to arrange a Count? Register your interest with caring for Gods Acre to be emailed an information pack. [bit.ly/ChurchesCountOnNature](http://bit.ly/ChurchesCountOnNature)

### And finally...

If there's one thing that every church can do, in fact, every member of your church too, it is switch to a renewable electricity provider. There are lots of renewable energy providers out there, and it no longer needs to be the expensive option.

It's good to know that the Green Energy Basket at Parish Buying is 100 per cent UK-generated renewable electricity.

The Environment Team is here to help you. You can find your Diocesan Environment Officer at [bit.ly/DEOmap](http://bit.ly/DEOmap) and to keep in touch you can subscribe to our Environment Bulletin at [bit.ly/CofEEnvNews](http://bit.ly/CofEEnvNews).

Best wishes,

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