

St Mark's, Holbrook, Plan of Action – 18.2.24



1. **Plan to walk the talk** – Turning the words of our Recognition of Climate and Ecological Emergency Statement into action. Actions selected using tools recommended in the 'Declaration b) Making a Plan' section of the Toolkit.

Reduce our carbon footprint

Agree SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound), key milestones and initial steps.

- Net Zero Carbon by 2030 – CofE defines Net Zero Carbon as the reduction as far as possible of all in-scope carbon emissions (from oil, gas and electricity we use in our buildings and petrol and diesel transport) and the removal of an equivalent amount of carbon from the atmosphere, for the remaining in-scope emissions by use of accredited offsetting schemes. Use [Route Map to Net Zero Carbon](#) and [The practical path to net zero carbon for churches](#) (if it is not now out of date).
- Reduce emissions by 10% a year.
- Carbon neutral by 31.12.2024 – annually use the Energy Footprint Tool in online Parish Returns, to record our building energy use (gas and electricity) and travel miles, to calculate our carbon emissions. Then use [Climate Stewards](#) to offset emissions we cannot avoid.
- Embed caring for God's creation into every aspect of our church life and achieve a Gold Eco Church Award.
- Review progress twice a year in March prior to APCM and in August prior to September PCC.

Helping church members make lifestyle changes

- Plan a climate-themed Sunday – Harvest Sunday 2024.
- Continue encouraging households to care for God's creation, including using the [Creation Care](#) scheme.
- Promote our resources list for children and youth – for churches, parents and carers.
- Encourage home groups to study a creation care series.
- Consider home groups, or as a sermon series, using Operation Noah's updated '[Tenants of the King' Bible studies](#) – in 2024.

Moving your money

- Encourage Chichester Diocese to divest from fossil fuels – in 2024.
*St Mark's Eco Church Champion has joined the Parish Environment Support Network and is Horsham Deanery Eco Church Champion.
- [Green Your Money](#) with ECCR rethink where we bank, our spending and pensions – produce a resources list including Eco Church resources and consider organising a talk at St Mark's in 2024.

Switch to renewable energy

- Churches: Citizens UK's – [Fair Energy Campaign](#)
Green electricity and gas contracts have been renewed through Parish Buying.
- Households – [Big Clean Switch](#) – in 2024.
Updated information awaited from Sussex Green Living.

2. **Plan to have an Impact** – Ideas and deadlines for each of the four areas of Impact, to help our team and congregation to inspire change, both in their own circles and in wider society, sparking a ripple effect for change.

<p>Upwards</p> <p>Influence your MP, council, denomination etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support campaigns to influence governments and businesses with Christian Aid, Tearfund, Operation Noah, Green Christian and other campaigning organisations – when appropriate campaigns arise. • Continue engaging with our MP and during the General Election campaign consider how to engage with the candidates. • Chichester Diocese – support the journeys to Bronze Eco Diocese and divestment from fossil fuels – in 2024. See*. ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/denominational-awards/eco-diocese and Operation Noah's Bright Now campaign. • Invite Holbrook Councillors to meet with us to discuss local litter and other concerns. Invite them to attend Holbrook Heart Café and a climate themed Harvest Service in 2024. 	<p>Outwards</p> <p>Help people influence their workplace, schools, community groups and encourage the church and home groups to pray regularly for them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a resources list for schools, pre-schools, teachers and governors, with links to Eco Church and A Rocha UK resources, 'Net zero carbon schools' webinar and Let's Go Zero in 2024.
<p>Alongside</p> <p>Influence those you work with – mission partners, suppliers, other churches etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue upholding St Mark's Fairtrade status – renewed on 11.9.23 valid for 2 years. • Review St Mark's suppliers using Eco Church resources and ECCR's Ethical buying guide for churches – in 2024. • Commit to praying regularly as a church for people around the world who are impacted by the climate emergency, or who are caring for God's creation in inspiring ways – ongoing. 	<p>Together</p> <p>Connect with local climate groups and see how you can work together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue working with Horsham Community Fridge • Continue as a recycling drop off location for Sussex Green Living • Continue working together with and sharing information about other local groups through Horsham Eco Churches • Create and publish St Mark's OnePlanet Mindmap in March 2024.