An Environmental Audit for your Church / Parish / Agency



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The Aim

The *Environmental Audit* is designed to assist parishes, schools, church groups:

- * Identify and affirm their existing environmental practices /ministry / spirituality;
- * Develop environmental futures by prioritising what needs to be done to live more sustainably with respect to our heritage;
- * Identify supportive resources;
- * Network with other churches and environmental agencies to promote ecological conversion in our world.

This booklet should be used in conjunction with *Outlook Unsettled*, CASI's resource on climate change and environmental issues, and also resources contained in the Environment section of the CASI website: www.casi.org.nz/issues/environment

This booklet contains 5 sections:

The Audit

This audit contains ten areas of focus and allows for schools, agencies, and parishes, to undertake a reflection on part or all of the audit:

- 1. Living Sustainably as a Community
- 2. Management & Organisation
- 3. Landcare
- 4. Worship / Liturgy / Prayer
- 5. Theology

- 6. Children's Work
- 7. Youth Work
- 8. All Ages & Adult Education
- 9. Personal Lifestyle
- 10. Community Outreach & Overseas Mission

Your church's carbon footprint: A method for working it out

A checklist: Using the 10 sections of the audit this gives a summary that can be checked off to record what has been done and what needs to be done.

Building an environment policy: design an environmental care policy for your family, church, parish or organisation. What statements do you need to include? What needs to be in it?

Where to next? Further hints, ideas and places to look up for further reference.

The Audit

1. Living Sustainably as a Community

Have Done	Will Consider	Not a Priority	General Property Use
			Audit of whole property register for functional use (include usage, fitness for purpose, size, cultural heritage value)
			Develop forward plan to transform properties and uses (allowing more effective and environmentally efficient usage)
			Develop convenient procedures / instruction manual for routine environmental management of all properties including those with cultural heritage value (to be used by all building users).
			Managing Heritage Places
			Identify the conservation issues of each place Develop Conservation Management Guidelines for significant places
			Utilise the Conservation/Management Guidelines for Building Development/Restoration and cosvervation of places of Cultural Heritage value
	0	<u> </u>	Employ architects/engineers/builder with conservation experience Incorporate sustainable development practices including:
			Planning for Development and Redevelopment
			We will consider the environmental impacts of:
			- water - power
	ā		- greenscaping
			locationbuilding products (using recycled / reclaimed material where
			appropriate and choose timber from sustainably managed forests) - have not allowed development to be detrimental to future generations
			Being "Energy Wise" - Heating and Light
			Monitor energy consumption regularly to check trends Switch to 'low carbon intensity' energy sources (e.g. switch to gas,
		П	use solar heating, green electricity, etc.) Regularly service heating and cooling appliances
	ō	ā	Consider ways to improve ventilation effectiveness.
			Choose appropriate sized rooms for activities
			Timetable meetings to minimise heating use Fit heating/cooling systems with timer and thermostatic controls
	ū		Fit draft excluders around windows and doors
			Install appropriate levels of insulation
			Consider installing double glazing Install solar passive designs in any new buildings or rebuilding
			programmes Clean windows to maximise natural light
<u> </u>			Encourage building users to switch off unnecessary lights and not leave items on stand-by (e.g. photocopier)
			Replace cracked or broken windowpanes
			Install low-energy bulbs where appropriate

Have	Will	Not a	Being Water Wise
Done	Consider	Priority	
			Draft a routine water 'check-list' for each property
			Install a water meter and monitor water consumption regularly (monthly)
			Install composting toilets or water re-cycling toilets where appropriate
			Check water outlets and fix any drips and leaks
			Install water-saving devices e.g. dual flush toilets and low spray flow or auto turn-off taps, drip irrigation systems, controlled shower heads
			Collect rainfall from downpipes for use in buildings and gardens (water tanks)
			Install grey-water recycling systems

2. Management and Organisation
Churches are responsible for the good stewardship of money and a range of consumables. Use this section to assess your existing good practice and identify issues for consideration and action:

to asse.	ss your carsu	ing good practic	ce and identity issues for consideration and action.
Have Done	Will Consider	Not a Priority	Financial Management and Purchasing Policy
			Have an ethical investment policy for any savings Use environmentally-friendly cleaning materials, paint, garden chemicals, etc.
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Purchase recycled paper (to boost demand for recycled products) Purchase fairly-traded products (e.g. tea and coffee) Use local suppliers where possible (so promoting a sustainable local economy and reducing transportation)
			Catering
	<u> </u>		Use crockery rather than disposable cups and plates Use environmentally friendly cleaning products Use farmers' markets and other local suppliers (to promote local economy and reduce food miles)
			Waste Minimisation
			Provide collection facilities for recycling items that members, building users or local community can use (e.g. paper, spectacles, stamps, printer cartridges, shoes, foil)
			Run an Opportunity Shop to raise funds, recycle goods and promote the availability of goods at affordable prices.
			Develop a waste minimisation and recycling strategy for materials used at/by your church.
			Re-use paper that has been printed on only one side. Hold jumble sales to raise funds, recycle goods and promote the availability of goods at affordable prices
			Vehicles
	<u> </u>		Consider lower emission vehicles when purchasing vehicles Vehicles receive recommended maintenance Encourage car pooling Identify and manage traffic flows on and around our site to minimise impact on the area.

3. Landcare

Many organisations are responsible for land varying in size from a tiny patch to a large acreage. Use this section to assess the community / visual / environmental / ecological / value of your church's plot and the potential to develop it.

Have	Will	Not a	
Done	Consider	Priority	
			Choose native plant species and plants that attract wildlife (e.g. nest or roosting sites, native trees and shrubs)
			Remove weeds and plants that endanger the natural environment
			Provide other features to benefit wildlife (e.g. flowers used by moths and butterflies, berry-bearing trees for birds, close cover for small birds)
			Choose visually attractive planting/features
			Area for prayer/contemplation/outdoor worship
			Take part in improving other church properties
			Has your organisation identified whether land owned or leased by it contains "matters of ecological significance"?
			Do you have land owned or leased that contain ecosystems that are polluted or contaminated?

4. Worship / Liturgy / Prayer

Worship is the prime focus of Christian life from which the church's life and mission flow. This section is designed to help you identify how thankfulness and concern for God's creation are expressed in your worship, your liturgies or your prayer.

How regularly during the year are environmental concerns included in worship?	In your organisations' prayer life do you: (Tick any that apply to your church)
□ Never □ Occasional Services □ Frequently Does your organisation connect with God's gift of creation through worship? (Tick any that apply to your church/school/organisation)	 □ Praise God the creator □ Say sorry for the harm done to the environment □ Give thanks to God for the gift of creation □ Pray for the healing of creation
 □ Through occasional outdoor/special venue services □ Through prayer walks □ Using natural materials within worship □ Choosing organic bread and wine □ Other 	Does your organisation use music/song that celebrates the wonder of creation or express the calling to care for the environment? Regularly On special Sundays Only in Children's services Hardly ever

5. Theology

Theology is concerned with giving and exploring a rational and orderly account of Christian belief, drawing on Biblical studies, Church tradition and history, ethics and the context in which the Church is present. Does your Parish/ School/ Church agency:

Yes	Will	Not a	
	Consider	Priority	
			Have access to Christian environmental books and resources (like posters or websites)
			Participate in or organise study/exploration events that include environmental issues?
			Include creation/environmental issues in its teaching / preaching / operational programme?

6. Children's Work

Christian children's work can inform, inspire and encourage youngsters as they grow in faith. Use the check-up to identify if your children's programme (infant and primary school age) includes environmental issues and the potential for developing this ministry:

Has potential	Not a	
to develop	Priority	
		Junior Church/Sunday School
		Playgroups
		After school/holiday clubs
		Has potential Not a to develop Priority

7. Youth Work

Churches undertake a range of youth work including Sunday focussed groups, schools, church and open youth groups and mid-week organisations. If your parish, school, church agency undertakes / is planning to develop youth work, review your existing activities and consider future possibilities:

Yes	Have	Could	Activities
	Done	Consider	
			Hold a debate on environmental issues and personal responsibility
			Develop creation-care material to offer in worship
			Undertake a practical environmental/conservation project
			Arrange bushwalks
			Organise an environmentally focussed community event (with young people from a range of churches / organisations?)
			Assess how environmentally friendly you are and make recommendations for action

8. All Ages & Adult Education

Parents in Schools/church agency/parishes are places where people can grow in faith from cradle to grave. Relating key topics, like environmental issues, with Christian thinking can be inspirational and faith-affirming. What opportunities are or could be available for your organisation?

Have	Could	Not current	
Done	Do	priority	
			Undertake an environmentally themed Bible study
			Invite a speaker on environmental issues
			Organise/participate in a seasonal care-of-creation emphasis
			Distribute information pamphlets on the environment
			Conduct eco-retreats

9. Personal Lifestyle

Use this section to assess what your group is currently doing to encourage individuals to green their lifestyle and the potential to develop this mission.

Have	Will	Not a	
Done	Consider	Priority	
			Publish green tips in any church / parish/ school magazine
			Promote awareness through posters or information from
			environmental organisations (e.g. home energy audit)
			Encourage recycling by providing collection points or informing
			people of local facilities.
			Support eco-justice or eco-action groups
			Undertake a personal lifestyle audit

10. Community Outreach & Overseas Mission

Community Outreach

Church agencies/parishes/schools can work with and through their local community to improve the quality of their neighbourhood and build links. Use this section to assess the links that your agency already has in the local community and the potential for further development.

Have	Will	Not a	
Done	Consider	Priority	
			Establish links with community organisations with a view to sharing your environmental ministry (e.g. schools, youth groups, local volunteer groups)
			Advise building users of your environmental concerns and request that they utilise any environmentaly friendly products
			Participate in local environmental initiatives or policy formation – your local Council, etc)
			Draw on links that members have with environmental bodies, WWF, Friends of the Earth, etc.
			Support or initiate community schemes with a positive environmental element.

Global Concerns

Living simply that others may simply live is a facet of Christian life. What does or could your group do to benefit the environment and people across the world?

Have	Will	Not a	
Done	Consider	Priority	
			Support the work of Christian development agencies (e.g. CWS, World Vision, Tearfund, etc)
	П	П	
_	–	J	Promote fair trade (e.g. develop a church stall or method for selling goods from TradeAid, etc)
			Explore environmental issues through any linked or twinned overseas
			community or church (esp.at risk Pacific nations like Bangladesh,
			Kirribati & Tuvalu)
			Support the work of international conservation / environment agencies (e.g. WWF, Friends of the Earth, etc)

Your Church's Carbon Footprint¹

This will provide you with a useful summary of your congregation or parish's current practices in Areas 1, 2, and 3.

Carbon Calculator for the Year

From Month: Year:
To Month: Year:

Type of Energy	Annual Total	Multiplier	Emissions (kg CO ₂)
Electricity * kWh		0.1 #	
Gas ⁻ kWh		0.19	
Heating oil* litres		2.975	
Car travel (drivers only: see 'Travel Audit' below) kms.		0.187	
Divide by 1,000			
Total I			

Notes

Decisions you make about your electricity usage have a more marked effect than the national average might suggest. In broad terms, if you lower your energy consumption, less coal-fired electricity will need to be generated. The multiplier for coal-fired generation would be about 0.45, rather than the 0.1 New Zealand average. Similarly if the proportion of "green" generation increases it will reduce the demand for coal-fired power.

Travel Audit

To calculate the emissions caused by travel:

- 1. Choose a Sunday when you expect the attendance to be neither higher nor lower than the average. Avoid festivals, school holidays, special events.
- 2. Circulate travel survey forms based on the questions listed below.
- 3. Add up the kilometres of car drivers ONLY, multiply by 52 (to get an annual total) and insert the result in the 'Annual Total' column of the Carbon Calculator Table. Not all the information from questions 2 and 3 is needed for the calculator but may provoke some interesting discussion!

Church Travel Survey

- 1. What is the distance of your round trip today in kilometres (from home to church and back)?
- 2. How did you travel: foot, bike, bus, train, by car as a driver, by car as a passenger?
- 3. If by car, how big is the engine (in cc)... and how many passengers shared the ride?

^{*} Ask the Church Treasurer for the monthly bills for the past year, and put the total from these in the 'Annual Total' column of the table.

The mutliplier for electricity is based on the national average. It takes no account of the mix of generating methods your supplier actually uses. Because New Zealand has a national grid, power is in effect drawn from a common pool. While electricity generated in New Zealand is mostly from renewable energy sources such as hydro and geothermal power stations, in this pool coal-fired Huntly is at the margins. If demand drops, Huntly's contribution to the generating mix is reduced. If the demand increases, Huntly's contribution also increases.

¹The Carbon Calculator thanks to: <u>www.christian-ecology.org.uk/noah</u>

Checklist: Environmental Practices/ Priorities

This is a simple check list to see what you ahve done, and what still needs to be done. The sections are taken from the Audit.

Already Undertaken	Future Priorities	
		1. Living Sustainably:
		 a) Property b) General c) Managing Built Environments d) Development & Redevelopment e) Waterwise f) Energywise
		2. Management & Organisation:
	_ _ _	a) Financialb) Cateringc) Wasted) Vehicles
		3. Landcare
		4. Worship/Liturgy/Prayer
		5. Theology
		6. Children's Work
		7. Youth Work
		8. All Ages & Adult Education
		9. Personal Lifestyle
		10. Community Outreach & Global Concerns

Building an Environmental Policy

To design an environment policy for your parish/church/group get a few people together to work on a statement containing the following sections. Then present it to the whole group for review and acceptance as your policy statement.

"Towards Sustainable Futures" **Our Mission Statement:** (should be only 1 or 2 sentences) Our Rationale: (why do we need an environment policy) **Our Principles: Our Issues: Our Actions:**

Status of Our Action:

More Hints and Ideas

Living Sustainability: Energy Heating - Light

- 1. Consult your local energy provider for a D.I.Y. Energy Assessment tool.
- 2. Schools can access "the Powerwise Kit" from their Energy provider.
- 3. Ethical Energy for your church
 - how to arrange it?
 - Try "Operation Noah" www.christian-ecology.org.uk/noah
- 4. The Environment section of the CASI website contains further information and links to a wide range of information and resources: www.casi.org.nz/issues/environment
- 5. For more information on greenhouse gases and suggestions for reducing their output visit the Australian Federal Government's Greenhouse site at: www.greenhouse.gov.au/index.html

Ways	to	Cool	Global	Warm	ing
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1. Walk, cycle or use public transport.
2. Use compact fluorescent lights.
3. Purchase the highest energy-efficient star rating appliances.
4. Insulate your home to save on heating and cooling costs. Add insulation to electric hot water units.
5. Cut hot water consumption by washing clothes in cold water and by fitting a water-efficient shower head.
6. Replace an electric hot water service with solar or high-efficiency gas.
7. Support renewable energy.
2. Service your car regularly and, when buying a new car, choose one that is fuel-efficient.
9. Rate the energy efficiency of your new home design.
10. Plant, protect and conserve existing trees and shrubs.
11. Do not leave electrical items on 'standby' – DVD/CD Players, TV., etc.

Acknowledgements

"Eco-Congregation" – An environmental toolkit for churches. <u>www.ecocongregation.org/</u> This will ask you to choose which part of the UK you live in, as the toolkit is adapted to regional issues. For example choosing 'England & Wales' will take you to: <u>www.ecocongregation.org/englandwales/</u> where you will find this audit document and a range of other resources for churches.

"Catholic Earth Care, Australia" There are many useful resources on their web site, including an Australian adaptation of the Eco-Congregations environmental audit exercise.

Visit: www.catholicearthcareoz.net/audit.html

The Churches' Agency on Social Issues (CASI)

The Churches' Agency on Social Issues is the official social responsibility agency for four significant Churches in Aotearoa New Zealand: the Methodist Church of New Zealand, the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, The Associated Churches of Christ in New Zealand and the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Aotearoa New Zealand.

For more information about the Agency, go to our website: www.casi.org.nz

The Agency consists of representatives appointed from the four member churches: Methodist, Presbyterian, Churches of Christ, and Quakers.

Topics and issues are often brought to CASI attention through emails and letters from local church social issues groups, or church-organised meetings. We also respond to resolutions passed at national and regional church councils, and direct requests from member churches, and report back to them each year. We welcome requests for information by letter, phone or email.



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