

What we did to attain a Bronze Eco Church award

- Appointed an eco co-ordinator who carried out a survey of our current position
- Created an Environmental policy
- Created an action plan to achieve bronze level in each of the following categories

Worship and Teaching Category

- Embedded creation care in the preaching in our church
- Celebrate special days and seasons relating to creation care e.g. harvest
- Run courses and study groups that include creation care as an integral part of Christian faith
- Use sustainable worship resources e.g. local and home-grown floral arrangements etc
- Developed Noah's Ark teaching area for our youngsters
- Hosted guest speakers e.g. from SCOOP

Building and Energy Category

- Use appropriate energy tariffs
- LED lighting where possible
- We don't use gas or oil to heat the building
- Carry out planned maintenance
- Insulated pipework where possible
- Metered water supply
- Use eco cleaning products and toilet rolls
- Recycle church waste where possible

Land and Nature Category

- Developed the side garden into a wildlife garden with pollinator plants, wildflowers and a few weeds!
- Installed a bug hotel, a bird box, a log pile and a water bowl for wildlife
- Avoid pesticides and use natural fertiliser
- We use a water butt to catch rainwater
- We will take part in the Big Butterfly Count (July 2025)
- Organise a beach clean (September 2025)

Community & Global Engagement Category

- Working with Presbytery's Sustainability group and Jersey's Care for Creation group
- Promote community groups e.g. SCOOP
- Promote A Rocha's Target 25 campaign and citizen science – we are focussing on the decline in butterflies
- Bank and invest the church's money with providers with climate friendly policies

- Use Fairtrade products in our refreshments
- Where possible eliminate single use plastic and disposables– e.g. our water cups are now paper
- Where possible we try to repair rather than replace
- Communicate what we are doing – through our website and newsletter

Lifestyle Category

- Share advice for a more sustainable lifestyle - pew leaflet has a weekly eco tip
- We've created an Eco section on the church website and a quarterly newsletter with tips and advice
- Installed a bike rack to encourage members to cycle
- Promote Second-hand September
- Promote the use of JE app to save energy
- Encourage members to nurture their own gardens and enjoy nature

A huge thank you to everyone who has helped:

Carolann who has embedded creation care into so much of what we do

Boyd and the fabric committee who answered so many questions and had already done so much to make St Columba's buildings eco friendly

Sam for developing Noah's Ark

Daphne and Graeme our amazing caretakers

Fiona for organising Fairtrade products for our refreshments

Margaret for organising our floral displays

Tony & Veronica for their work on the front garden

Dave for his work on the wildlife garden

Adrian for providing all the financial information

Elaine for organising the beach clean