



My carbon, their lives, our future

SHRINKING THE FOOTPRINT

The Church of England Shrinking the footprint campaign has been re-launched in September 2009. There is now a target to reduce each individual church's consumption by 20.12% by 2012. This pack will help you to achieve this target.



Step One – Calculate your footprint

Using the spreadsheet provided, and the information sheet, you can easily calculate your footprint – this will give you a baseline. Then you can start to reduce it.

Step Two – Change your light bulbs

Read the light bulb sheet. This gives you two ways to change your bulbs, often an overlooked simple step.



Step Three – Switch energy supplier

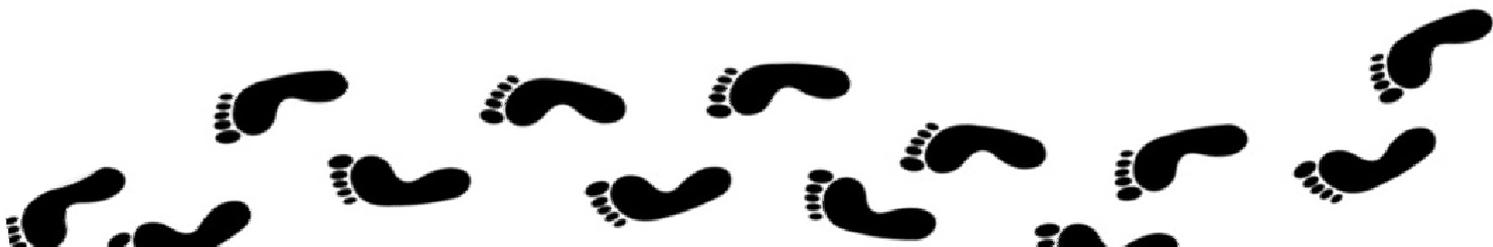
If you are not already on a green energy tariff, Ecotricity, a green energy supplier, is offering members of the Diocese special terms to switch to a green tariff. Ring 08000 302 302 to find out more and switch tariffs, and read our energy sheet in this pack for more information.

Step Four – Rejoice and publicise your work.

By achieving these steps you have made a difference. Keep God at the centre and keep going.



"Yours LORD is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty, everything in heaven and on earth is yours, all things come from you – and of your own do we give you."





STEP ONE – CALCULATE YOUR FOOTPRINT

To be able to reduce your footprint, you need to have a starting point. Ideally your energy baseline should commence at 2005, but if you do not have the information then your baseline year can be 2008. Then you can reduce your footprint, and easily check your progress by calculating again. Either use our calculator or send us the information and we will calculate it for you.

Using our calculator to establish your baseline

The calculator is located on www.stalbans.anglican.org/Mission/Environment

- Read your gas and electricity meters, or gather your fuel bills.
- Calculate your annual fuel use and enter the kWh or cubic metres in the spreadsheet at www.stalbans.anglican.org/Mission/Environment.
- The good news: if you are on a green tariff, it counts as zero carbon.
- Don't forget to let Alice Jupp (Diocesan Environment Officer) know the results, ideally by emailing your church name with the calculator attached at environment@stalbands.anglican.org.

If you are not sure about the calculations, send us the information:

- Ask your treasurer for the fuel bills. We need meter readings that are either actual or customer readings, together with the reading dates. Estimates are no good. Don't forget that there are two readings on each bill. The meter readings should cover a period of at least a year and the more readings you can supply, the better. More recent readings may well be available on your energy supplier's Web pages, so logging in could be easier than digging out old bills.
- It does not matter if you have complications like new meters or an extended period of estimates, just send us the readings before and after and we will sort it out. You could even just photocopy the bills and send them to Alice Jupp. (via Holywell Lodge 01727 851748 or environment@stalbands.anglican.org.)

Whichever way you choose...

We would like your energy supplier names and whether you are on a green tariff. Can you also let us know the pattern of church use, including:

- The floor area of the church in square metres (approx);
 - The number of services a week on average, and
 - Whether a church hall is included in the fuel use
- We will report back on your carbon footprint and a comparison with other churches in the near future.





STEP TWO -CHANGE YOUR LIGHT BULBS

Changing all your light bulbs to energy saving is a great way of instantly reducing your footprint. Light bulbs suitable for churches are available from a number of outlets. Online there are several options, for example

www.energysavinglightbulbsdirect.co.uk

www.mygreenlighting.co.uk

Get cracking!

EXODUS 22:6 IF A FIRE BREAKS OUT AND SPREADS INTO THORN BUSHES SO THAT IT BURNS STOCKS OF GRAIN OR STANDING GRAIN OR THE WHOLE FIELD, THE ONE WHO STARTED THE FIRE MUST MAKE RESTITUTION.

This excellent passage shows that those who started the fire (climate change) are responsible for the consequences. Whatever the situation now – since 1980 Europe has been in the top 5 emitters.

While you're reducing your footprint, why not increase the amount you recycle? Recycling is a very good way to get the most possible use out of a material, therefore using less energy.

-RECYCLE YOUR WASTE.



Different councils have different policies for churches. But it's worth phoning or checking the local council's web -page to see what you can recycle; you may be eligible for kerb-side collection. It's worth considering ways to recycle your paper, plastic and card if possible.

Watch this space, we are working on making the recycling policy the same for all churches. The information will be available on the diocesan web page in the near future,





STEP THREE – SWITCH TO A GREEN ENERGY SUPPLIER

Special terms are now on offer from

ecotricity

Some good reasons for switching your energy supplier to one with a green tariff:

- If you switch to a green supplier you will instantly reduce your carbon footprint.
- Purchasing green energy will provide some protection against future price increases of fossil fuels as supplies dwindle.
- The greater the consumer demand for green energy, the higher the production will become, further aiding the shift away from fossil fuels.

There are a number of green energy companies, which offer green tariffs.

Ecotricity is a green energy company which itself produces significant amounts of green energy and also spends the most per customer on building new sources of renewable energy in the UK. The offer is set out below. The more people that sign up from the diocese the lower the tariffs will become for us as a group.

The Diocese does not endorse any one company but thinks this offer may be of interest to parishes. However each parish must decide which green energy company is most appropriate for their needs.

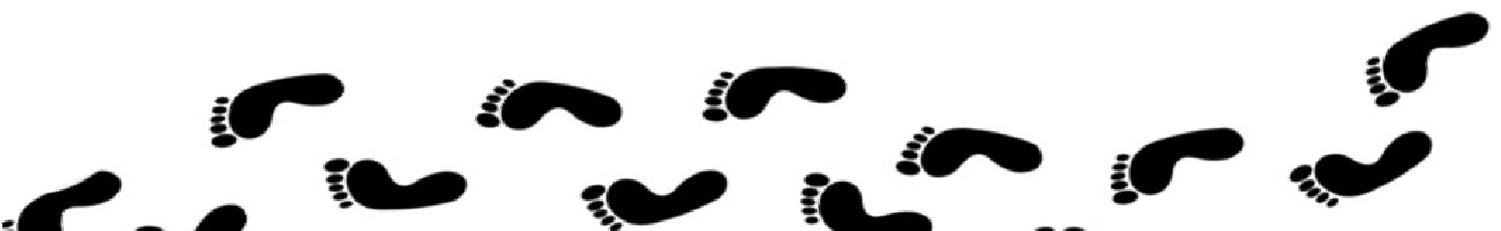
Ecotricity are offering green electricity prices on a **28-day rolling contract at a special discounted rate** (with additional discounts in the future as more join). This rate is available to parishes, clergy houses, church schools and parishioners.

Visit **www.ecotricity.co.uk** for more general information.

To find more about the Ecotricity offer and switch ring **08000 302 302**

And quote STAL01 for houses or STAL02 for Churches or schools.

- If you are already in a fixed price deal Ecotricity can assist in transferring at an appropriate time – please contact them for details.
- Please note there are two Ecotricity tariffs –New Energy (45.6% green electricity) or New Energy Plus (100% green electricity). The tariffs for November 2009 are printed on the last sheet in this pack to give you an idea.
- For each agreement made, the Diocese will receive a donation from Ecotricity.
- This money will be used for other environmental projects in the diocese
- If you are already a customer of Ecotricity, let us know as you can still enable this donation to be made.
- During Spring 2010 Ecotricity will also be offering gas, so watch this space.





STEP FOUR – REJOICE AND PUBLICISE YOUR WORK.

Doing what you have done is fantastic, and has made a difference.

Why not try recalculating after some time (to let all your lean mean green carbon reducing measures take effect) and see what effect you've had.

Look at the shrinking the footprint web page for more detailed information on what you can do. www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org

Keeping God at the centre of all this is very important. Keep praying, and trusting in him. Spread the word, especially showing how and what you have achieved. Looking after his creation is important. The next page shows you how you can manage your churchyard to increase biodiversity.

Prayers for the environment:

God said:

'Let the waters be gathered together, and let dry land appear.'
We thank you for the beauty of the earth,
for the diversity of land and sea, for the resources of the earth.
Give us the will to cherish this planet and
to use its riches for the good and welfare of all.
God of life: hear our prayer.

Taken from *Common Worship: Seasons and Festivals of the Agricultural Year*

2 CHRONICLES 7:14

"IF MY PEOPLE, WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES, PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS, THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN AND HEAL THEIR LAND".

Creator God,
from atom to planet your universe is awesome.
Give us eyes to gape
at the wonders daily about us,
and the will to live
in the harmony of your creating.
Help us to own the connections of all things,
even at cost to our own wants and comforts;
So we may live gently on earth,
and all creation praise you. Amen.

Creator God by Chris Polhill





- BIODIVERSITY

Churchyards contain important habitats; they are often the last refuge in a parish for the species that they support; often endangered. By taking these simple steps you are helping care for God's creation on a first hand basis.

TOP CHURCHYARD TIPS.

From Judith Evans (environment@stalbans.anglican.org addressed FAO J.Evans)

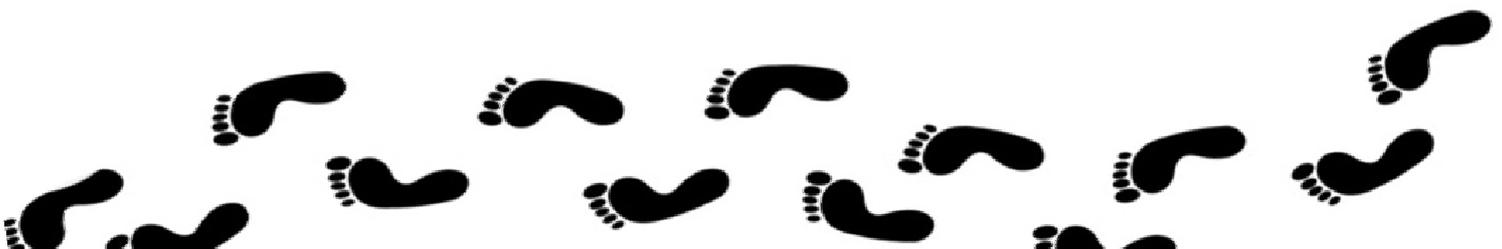
1. Remove grass clippings wherever possible. If left they rot down and increase the soil fertility, which encourages the growth of grasses at the expense of the wild flowers.
2. Do not mow the grass too short (less than 38mm/1.5 inches). Wildflowers do not survive if continually cut at their base.
3. Avoid using chemicals: fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides. If a weed killer has to be used restrict it to paths and follow the manufacturer's instructions
4. Erect bird and bat boxes in the churchyard. No faculty is required if they are attached to a tree.
5. Do not remove lichens from gravestones, walls or tree trunks.
6. Introduce changes in management gradually. Arrange for a plant survey and use this to inform you of the best mowing regimes for different areas of the churchyard. Try and have an area where the grass is left uncut for a period of 8 weeks during the spring or summer. Then cut it and remove the cut grass.
7. Attend Living Churchyard events such as guided walks round churchyards and illustrated talks. They are advertised in SeeRound and on the Diocesan website.

*'THE CHURCHYARD IS A SERMON
NOT ONLY IN STONES BUT IN
PLANTS AND ANIMALS.'*

Cooper, N. (2001) *Wildlife in church and churchyard*. Church House.

WHY INCREASE BIODIVERSITY?

- Grassland is usually the most important habitat, nearly all lowland hay meadows have been lost
- Birds often use churches to nest – namely Swifts Martins, Swallows and Barn Owls.
 - Churches are often a last haven for Slowworms and Lizards.
- The prominence of Churches in local communities gives them a unique role in educating the public about conservation.



Diocese of St Albans
Ecotricity New Energy Prices From November 2009

Business Tariffs for Churches and Church Halls

	<u>Standard Price</u>	<u>Discounted Price</u>
Single Rate Meter:		
All Units Rate (pence per kWh)	11.57	11.14
Daily Standing Charge (p/Day)	14.00	14.00
2 Rate Meter:		
Day Units Rate (pence per kWh)	12.05	11.42
Night Units Rate (pence per kWh)	7.75	7.35
Daily Standing Charge (p/Day)	15.00	15.00
3 Rate Meter:		
Weekday Units Rate (pence per kWh)	13.25	12.56
Eve / Wkend Units Rate (pence per kWh)	10.95	10.38
Night Units Rate (pence per kWh)	7.75	7.35
Daily Standing Charge (p/Day)	15.00	15.00

Vicarages and Houses will be based on Ecotricity's Domestic New Energy Tariff.
This tariff price matches the standard prices of the regional electricity supplier in your
region which is E-on

Profile 01 Meter:	
Unit Rate (pence per kWh first 900 kWh per year)	22.19
Unit Rate (pence per kWh over 900 kWh per year)	10.71
Daily Standing Charge (p/Day)	0.00
Profile 02 Meter:	
Unit Rate (pence per kWh first 900 kWh per year)	30.60
Unit Rate (pence per kWh over 900 kWh per year)	14.54
Night Units Rate (pence per kWh)	4.67
Daily Standing Charge (p/Day)	0.00

£40 per church / hall & £20 per domestic customer will be provided to the diocese to help finance energy saving initiatives. This donation will be provided for all customers who are registered with Ecotricity under the following Diocese of St Albans source code STAL02 (Churches) STAL01 (Domestic Properties)

The prices above are based on Ecotricity's New Energy Tariff and If customers wish to be provided with 100% renewable energy then an additional 0.5 p/kWh needs adding to the above rates