

Diocese of Exeter – Shrinking the Footprint Achievements 2006-2016

The achievements are categorised by the 5 Shrinking the Footprint areas of action, and a group of underpinning actions [*indicates action as part of the EcoChurch SouthWest partnership]

Underpinning actions

Strategy

Diocesan Synod Debates (2007, 2008, 2009, 2013)

Diocesan 5 priorities plan and 10 year strategy

* SW Dioceses/CofE strategic planning and goals

People, networks and partnerships

Diocesan Shrinking the Footprint (StF) team
Employment of Clare Bryden as part-time consultant (2009-10)

Links to national network of Diocesan Environment Officers (DEOs)

Setting up *EcoChurch SouthWest* (ECSW)

Member of CofE Environmental Working Group

* Partnership working with Ecotricity, Climate Works, Environmental Working Group

Work with European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) and World Council of Churches

New Plymouth Churches Green Action initiative

Communications

Exeter StF website, now replaced by...

* ECSW website and resources

Leaflets, articles and blogs

Talks and presentations on StF, energy, food

Campaigning

Attendance at COP15 in Copenhagen (2009), and other international events

Blue Wave campaign train (2009)

Climate lobby of Parliament (2015)

Action prior to UN Paris Summit

Procurement

Utilities

* Affinity scheme for 100% green electricity and gas

Churches and Christians switching suppliers

Work on fuel poverty issues – CosyDevon, EdF

* Work on water issues

Food and supplies

Fairtrade Diocese, Fairtrade and Local group

Work on food issues – Devon & Cornwall Food

Action, farming, Exeter Food Network, food leaflet, church land use and projects

Removal of bottled water

Recycling systems and training

Property and Land

Surveys and audits

Archidiaconal surveys (2015) and analysis

Devon Association for Renewable Energy

(DARE) energy studies – churches and eco-schools

DARE survey of parsonages (2016 –see below)

Energy study and actions for the Old Deanery

DARE summary of activities (separate paper)

Rural Community Energy Fund-funded survey into woodland and biomass

Renewables investment

* Church of England investment discussions

* Funding from CCLA for green projects in the South West

Investments in renewable energy – solar and wind

Diocesan Community Energy company proposal

Engagement with Devon community energy schemes

* Workshop on churches and community

energy and proposed paper for Treasurers

Transition Pathway Initiative (TPI) with CofE

Sustainable buildings

Promotion of energy conservation

* Conferences on heating and lighting

* Energy Benchmarking Scheme

* Low energy lighting bulb distribution

* Implementation of smart meters

Pilot of hot cushions

* Solar photovoltaic electricity (PV) installations on 400+ buildings in the SW – churches, schools, centres

Pilot of portable PV panel

Installation of other renewable technologies – biomass, air-source heat pumps, etc.

* Pilots of other renewable technologies

Composting toilets in churches

Green actions at the Old Deanery

Churchyards and Trees

Churchyard conservation work

Trees leaflet and actions

Green Burials leaflet

Multi-faith tree planting day

Transport

Car-free days at the Old Deanery

Staff Travel Plan at the Old Deanery

Electric bikes pilot

DBF joining Exeter Co-Cars (car club)

Increased use of teleconferencing, etc.

Lifestyle

Work with Devon Churches Green Action, Devon Climate Action and Transition Towns

Supporting community economics – local producers and growers, local currencies, Local Exchange Trading Schemes

Re-launch of A Rocha's Eco-Church, Nov. 2016

Various workshops and advice to requests

Theology and Worship

* Links to ministerial education and liturgy committee

Clergy and laity training events

* 3 Lent Carbon Fasts in 2014-2016

Active promotion of Season of Creation through leaflets, services, bookmarks, cards, etc.

Worship material – prayers, hymns, reflections, psalms

Special acts of worship, Solidarity Pilgrimage

Interfaith environment work – 4 Devon Earth and Faith Network events (DEFAN)

'*Roots of Inspiration*' trees project, DVD, events

Note on Parsonages: Synod agreed the target of reducing carbon emissions from 1990 figures by 20% by 2020. In practice, there is inadequate reliable data for 1990 and consequently 2010 has been used as the base point. Extensive carbon-efficiency measures have been implemented in clergy housing since 2010. Improvement works have included PV installations, insulation upgrades, replacement of boilers, changing of fuel type and the provision of multi-fuel burners and low energy lighting. In early 2016, when an external independent assessment was undertaken by DARE, they identified a carbon saving across all of the housing stock of just over 8%, namely 220 tonnes of carbon emissions per annum. A further 325 tonnes of carbon emissions per year is required. Further work has been instructed and will be undertaken this year. It is envisaged that this will result in most if not all of the further savings being achieved. The upgrades will be assessed again by DARE in due course with a view to ensuring that the 2020 target is met.

Martyn Goss, Diocesan Environment Officer, March 2017

