

South West Churches Lent Carbon Fast 2014

Change Today to Save Tomorrow

ADDITIONAL ACTIONS



These are further ideas for action for those who are 'green' already, and have been reducing carbon through lifestyle changes or campaigning for many years. They are also ways to follow up the Fast in the future because we need to continually reduce our carbon emissions and not only for 40 days during Lent...

PLUG IN SOLAR PV

Promoted by the **EcoChurch South West** project, the six Dioceses are now piloting Plug-In solar panels which can be easily installed in gardens, back yards, outhouse roofs, etc., without planning permission. Only access to an external power-point is required. There are no tariffs or payments involved and electricity produced is offset against your use. If you move house you can take the panels with you. Priced from about £950 and different sized systems available. Details on enquiry.

There are demonstration panels operating at the Old Deaneries in Exeter and Wells.

ELECTRIC BIKES

For those keen on cycling or outdoor activity but not wanting a normal bike, pedal-assist e-bikes are an ideal solution. With easily re-chargeable batteries (on or off the bike) and an average distance of 30-40 miles between charges, some clergy have already found this technology to suit their needs.

More expensive than a city or mountain bike but much cheaper than a second car, these e-bikes sell at prices from about £900.

WOOD-BURNING HEATING SYSTEMS

Also being tested by a few Dioceses, you might like to investigate a biomass burner for your home. Using regionally produced wood pellets or chips, you may also be able to make financial savings through the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), as well as reducing your carbon by not burning gas, coal or oil.

COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS

Churches can play a role in building sustainable food systems at a local community level. This may involve using church land for growing projects, teaching food preparation skills, cooking lessons, food co-operatives, food-collection points, seed-sharing clubs, bee-keeping, and so on. A handbook is available with further information.

HOT CUSHIONS

Already available, these re-heatable cushions can be used in smaller churches to warm worshippers. They are safe and easy to use and provide a gentle heat lasting up to ninety minutes. Can be placed on laps or sat on in the pew.

THERMAL IMAGING CAMERAS

Borrow or hire a thermal imaging camera to take photos of your home, workplace or church. You will have a visual reminder of where to tackle wasted heat through windows, doorways, etc. Encourage your neighbours, family and friends to do likewise.

ENERGY BENCHMARKING AND CHURCH ENERGY AUDITS

You might want to carry out an energy audit of your church. This will measure your power consumption and probably the use of your building, and identify ways in which you could save energy and use it more efficiently.

Your Diocese should be able to provide you with details of the Energy Benchmarking Scheme (EBS) in the South West or recommend an independent study by a professional organisation such as the Devon Association for Renewable Energy (DARE).

It is generally important to look at these issues before installing a renewable energy source, unless there is an obvious opportunity to do so, such as replacing your roof or heating system.

CAMPAIGNING FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

There are a number of climate campaigns that you might engage with and support. Aid agencies such as Tearfund (<http://www.tearfund.org/>) and Christian Aid (<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>) have details on their websites. Operation Noah also campaigns and has a specific action to encourage churches to disinvest from fossil fuels and reinvest in greener technologies:

<http://www.operationnoah.org/fossilfueldisinvestment>. This relates to the recent decision by the General Synod to ensure that the Church of England's investment policies are 'aligned with the theological, moral and social priorities' of the Church on climate change.

SOUTH WEST DIOCESES LENT CARBON FAST CONTACTS

Please contact your Diocesan Environment Officer for further details:

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