



## Step 1 ASSESS WHERE YOU ARE

Take a snapshot of your carbon footprint now, as a community or as an individual

**WHY?** To measure your impact along the way to net zero you'll need to chart progress and keep on track.

**HOW?** **Now** No more estimated bills! Read your meters regularly.  
**Next six months** Measure your carbon using a calculator such as [myclimate.org](https://myclimate.org) or [360carbon.org](https://360carbon.org)  
**Long term** Make sure EPC certificates have been done in the past ten years, or after any changes have been made to any buildings.



## Step 2 GREEN YOUR ENERGY

Use energy efficiently by reducing waste. Where possible, source energy from renewables

**WHY?** Significant emissions come from heating homes and public spaces, such as churches.

**HOW?** **Now** At your next Church Council agree to switch to green electricity suppliers and register to offset your carbon. Use [bigcleanswitch.org](https://bigcleanswitch.org) to change to renewable energy.  
**Next six months** Follow the property net zero guidance at [methodist.org.uk/for-churches/property/net-carbon-zero](https://methodist.org.uk/for-churches/property/net-carbon-zero) for easy fixes to improve the energy efficiency of your church buildings.  
**Long term** Download this checklist [www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/property/net-zero-carbon/make-a-bigger-impact](https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/property/net-zero-carbon/make-a-bigger-impact) to review the carbon emissions of your church building(s) and identify actions to reduce energy use and associated carbon emissions.



## Step 3 TRAVEL SMART

Minimise unnecessary travel, use public transport or bikes where possible, car share when you can and fly rarely

**WHY?** Globally, transport is responsible for about a quarter of overall greenhouse gas emissions, and more than two thirds of this comes from road vehicles.

**HOW?** **Now** Reduce the number of car journeys you take by using car pools and holding church meetings online where possible. You can find a template travel policy and expenses form to encourage greener travel at [www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/finance/travel-policy-and-expenses-claim-form-template/](https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/finance/travel-policy-and-expenses-claim-form-template/)  
**Next six months** Choose a low-carbon holiday.  
**Long term** Offset the carbon you can't avoid.



## Step 4 GO FOR GOLD

Eco Church\* offers a structured and well-resourced award scheme for churches to join. Five hundred Methodist churches are already registered

**WHY?** We are stronger together! Keep motivated and inspired by the Eco Church community as we reduce our carbon footprint together.

**HOW?** **Now** Watch and be inspired by our story from Gold award winners, [romseymethodist.church](https://romseymethodist.church)  
**Next six months** Get a small group together and register your church with Eco Church.  
**Long term** Work towards your Bronze award, and share progress with us by tagging the Methodist Church in your social media.



## Step 5 LIVE LIGHT

Reduce how much we buy, reuse and repair what we can and make careful choices in what we eat

**WHY?** Every item we buy has emissions associated with it. The clothing and textiles industry accounts for more greenhouse gas emissions than international aviation and shipping combined.

**HOW?** **Now** Eat green by buying just enough of what you need to reduce waste. Where possible, eat locally-produced food.  
**Next six months** Commit to fewer new clothes purchases. Choose to upcycle through clothes swaps or check out second hand/charity shops.  
**Long term** Commit to ending clutter by keeping your electronics for longer.



## Step 6 CELEBRATE TOGETHER

Take time to reflect on, share and celebrate your achievements

**WHY?** You will enjoy it! Bring together your church community and help to inspire others.

**HOW?** **Now** Share your eco wins on social media, no matter how small.  
**Next six months** Host a tea party to mark your church's registration for Eco Church.  
**Long term** Hold a special service to ground you in God's hope for the world and to sustain you on the next few steps to net zero.

\* Eco Congregation for churches in Scotland.