

## Why Christians must act on environmental issues:

"To hurt the Earth is a sin" (Patriarch Bartholomew). We must "respond to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor" (Pope Francis). "We should care for God's Creation out of love" (Revd Nicky Gumbel). "All our decisions – personal, purchasing and political – have to be greener for a healthier world. Let the Earth flourish" (Bishop James Jones).

## What to do next:

The dire state of God's Creation can make us wonder "what on earth can I do?" But living in a way that respects what God has made is part of our joyful discipleship and, by inspiring others to join us, we can begin to change the world.

This leaflet offers nine ways to live more gently on the Earth. Why not share these ideas by putting the centre pages of this leaflet on your church noticeboard, or on your fridge at home?

Find out more about your personal contribution to climate change by estimating your carbon footprint, using an online carbon calculator such as [climatestewards.org/carbon-calculators/](https://climatestewards.org/carbon-calculators/) or one from Mike Berners-Lee at Small World Consulting: [sw-consulting.co.uk/carbon-calculator](https://sw-consulting.co.uk/carbon-calculator) For a different approach try [giki.earth/about](https://giki.earth/about) The Climate Stewards website also links to a carbon calculator for your church at [360carbon.org/](https://360carbon.org/) Off-setting should only be used to compensate for unavoidable carbon emissions. Our challenge is to move to as close to zero as soon as possible if God's Creation is to flourish.

**"I have come that you may have life in all its fullness."**

John 10:10



## Green Christian

**About:** We are a community of ordinary Christians from all backgrounds and traditions. Inspired by our faith, we work to care for Creation through prayer, living simply, public witness, campaigning and mutual encouragement. We walk alongside those of faith and no faith.

**We welcome new members. Join us!**  
[greenchristian.org.uk/connect/join-us/](https://greenchristian.org.uk/connect/join-us/)

**Events:** Conferences, courses, retreats and workshops – online and in person.

**Campaigns/Projects** including: Borrowed Time; Joy In Enough on transforming our economy; Way of Life Community; Rainforest Fund Project; LOAF.

**Resources:** annual **Storm of Hope** pamphlet; twice yearly **Magazine**; monthly **Prayer Guide**; free **Email Newsletter** for all; **Members' email discussion group**. **Leaflets** for use in Churches: 7Rs on reducing consumption; *Use Your LOAF*; *Biodiversity*; *Eco Check Up for Churches*.

**Resources for living gently on the Earth**  
[greenchristian.org.uk/resources](https://greenchristian.org.uk/resources)

Prayers, poems, hymns, news of workshops and courses, posters and videos to inspire you to take action on a journey to a fossil-free lifestyle.

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Charity No. 328744 Company No. 2445198. © 2022 Green Christian

# Nine Ways of Living Gently



**GreenChristian**  
Responding to the Cry of the Earth

# Nine ways of living gently on the Earth:-

## 1. Stand up for the planet:

- Get to know your MP
- Write letters, sign an online petition
- Protest.

## 2. Get connected:

- Seek out like-minded people for mutual support and encouragement
- Join and support community groups
- Take part in one of Green Christian's many online meetings.

## 3. Practise gratitude and generosity:

- Take joy in simple pleasures rather than more possessions.

## 4. Be creative:

- Reinvent second-hand goods from charity shops
- Improvise, make things
- Try swishing – clothes swap!

## 5. Reconnect with the natural world:

- Get wet – dig the earth
- Grow herbs on your window sill
- Save and cherish water
- Take an interest in wildflowers, bees, butterflies, fish, birds and rocks
- Include the Earth in all Church liturgies
- Plant trees for special occasions such as weddings and baptisms.



GreenChristian

Ordinary Christians,  
Extraordinary Times

[greenchristian.org.uk](http://greenchristian.org.uk)

## 6. Use your LOAF!

- Support local shops
- Try to buy British fruit and veg in season
- Grow some of your own food
- Eat less meat and dairy
- Buy free-range eggs and meat and sustainably-caught fish (MSC)
- Suggest communal Church meals based on the LOAF principles:  
Locally produced  
Organically grown  
Animal friendly  
Fairly traded.

## 7. Travel light:

- Walk, cycle, take the bus, tram or train, if possible, and use local shops, noticing the beauty on your doorstep
- Organise a lift share scheme for your Church
- Don't fly: a transatlantic passenger blows their annual fair share of carbon in one go. If you must fly, offset with [climatestewards.org](http://climatestewards.org)
- Most European travel is possible by train: [seat61.com](http://seat61.com) for more information.

## 8. Explore this island:

- Get in touch with the seasons
- Seek out local adventures
- Enjoy the journey and limit your driving.

## 9. Go fossil-free and reduce your energy use:

- Change your electricity provider or campaign for your university, council or Church to disinvest
- Insulate your home
- Wear an extra layer, and turn the thermostat down one or two degrees
- Use hot water bottle, or an extra blanket instead of heating the whole house at night
- If buying new appliances go for AAA rated
- Place your desk by a window
- Generate your own electricity.