

GENERAL SYNOD 2021
FEEDBACK FROM BREAKOUT GROUPS
SESSION 4 – CHURCH IN SOCIETY COMMITTEE CLIMATE CHANGE

NB: (Brackets following questions are for the facilitators)

1. *Have you had a watershed moment that changed the way you think about climate change?*

(A person or newspaper article that inspired you to do things differently, to engage more in a personal or corporate way?)

Feedback SEE COLLATED RESPONSES

Children & young people in their passion have been very persuasive

Articles in the media

Family making changes such as electric cars

The awareness of so much during lockdown, such as plastic waste from PPE, recycling, not wasting food etc.

Visits to known places where the climate has caused changes such Norway, Chamonix Glacier realisation of bits of Scotland also under threat by rising sea levels.

Moving from 2050 to 2030 reinforces the crisis

2. *How is your church (or community) engaged with environmental issues and tackling climate change?*

(What are your good news stories?)

Feedback

Eco-Congregation groups and action plans

Paper use reduction and recycling - lockdown moved many to electronic 'papers'

Recycling bins and understanding what can/cannot be recycled

New heating systems that are energy efficient - LED lighting

Ethical investment of church and personal funds

Lent Courses & swap one thing for Lent for example waxed paper for cling film

Fair Trade and Organic food stuff use at church and home

Avoiding as much plastic consumption

What 'quick wins' can we be encouraged to make? Guidance please.

Having a dedicated Environmental Ambassador in each charge

looking for the small steps that build up to being a large step forward.

3. *What do you understand by net zero carbon emissions?*

(Skip this question and move on to the last one if there is too little time.)

Feedback

We need to learn to use the Earth's resources without polluting it in the process

Re-cycle, re-cycle, re-cycle

Plant trees and plants to help offset carbon use

Help to understand what Zero Carbon means

What does success look like?

4. *What do you find most daunting about the way forward to 2030 and how can the church structures best support you and your congregation?*

(What do people think will be difficult for their church to achieve with regard to the 10 points of guidance and the action plan? What advice/guidance/support do they think they need going forward from the Province and the dioceses?)

Feedback

Unified re-cycling rules across Scotland

Be prepared to challenge what is not right

Make old buildings eco-efficient - some central funding to help

Be radical in our review of building usage

Examine our personal life-styles and expectations

The financial implications to all especially the poor

Appoint a Provincial Climate Change Officer to inform and encourage us, especially where numbers are small and energy low.

An easy to understand and use tool kit to make the regular small steps to great achievement.

Speak and preach the unpopular - remember we are stewards of the Earth.

Diocesan and Provincial support - perhaps a team of encouragers/facilitators to help congregations in the process.

Challenge the planning and listing regulations for the sake of the planet!

Bishops/clergy encouraged to have electric cars