

Diocesan Environment Group Newsletter

March 2023

Over the winter the Provincial Environment Group has been working incredibly hard on a Net Zero Action Plan, responding to the commitment of the Scottish Episcopal Church to reach net zero carbon by 2030. Robert Woodford has been working as a consultant on this action plan during the short-term. A permanent Net Zero Delivery Director will soon be in position to continue the leadership of this vital area of ministry within the SEC. If you have not yet read the action plan, please do – it is full of important and exciting plans!

[Scottish Episcopal Church Net Zero Action Plan \(2023-2030\)](#)

The three guiding principles for the action plan are discipleship, justice and hope.

“**Discipleship** calls us to be steadfast advocates for justice and compassion, and to take urgent action to protect the planet and its inhabitants. **Justice** requires that those most affected by the climate crisis are considered in every decision we take. **Hope** encourages us to find strength in the midst of uncertainty, to trust in God’s universal love, and to keep working for a flourishing future. With these Christian values rooting our work, we can together transform our church and make a lasting and positive impact on the climate crisis. Together we can bequeath to future generations a church that is fit for purpose.”

At present this action plan is in its draft form and we are in the midst of a consultation period. If you are part of a charge or diocesan committee, the Provincial Environment Group requests your feedback. This is so important to allow every aspect of the SEC to take ownership of the task ahead. Charges may wish to send feedback into the Diocesan Environment Group via bethany@psandgs.org.uk. We will pass this on to the Diocesan Standing Committee, to help them in their feedback on behalf of the Diocese of Edinburgh. The deadline for formal feedback is Tuesday 28th March.

[SEC Net Zero Action Plan \(2023-2030\) consultation](#)

For more information about the work of the Provincial Environment Group, the process of the Net Zero Action Plan consultation and to catch up on the webinar ‘What does “net zero 2030” mean?’ please follow the link below:

[The Provincial Environment Group \(PEG\)](#)

The Diocesan Environment Group will be drawing up a detailed diocesan action plan over the coming months, which will consider the particular needs and circumstances of the charges within our geographic area. In order to do this effectively, we are looking to expand our group, allowing better representation and expertise from across the diocese. We are also keen to improve communication with Standing Committee and members of the buildings and finance sub-committees. Reaching net zero is not simply a ‘green’ issue, but spans every aspect of the life of our church. This means we must all think about the part we can play and how our particular ministry areas can be used to create lasting change.

“See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them. Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the end of the earth! Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants.” Isaiah 42:9-10

We would love to hear any stories of how your church has been thinking small and big:

1. Have you made a start with small easy changes?
2. Have you made a strategic plan for future changes?

Please do continue to engage with the [Environment](#) page on the diocesan website, use the [Diocesan Online Support Forum](#) for any questions or suggestions and be inspired by [stories](#) from other churches.