

Climate Resilient Churches and Communities - April 2026

It is becoming increasingly clear of the need to include climate adaptation and resilience for both our churches and communities, alongside climate change mitigation, as part of our Eco Church journey.

Eco Church - Buildings and Energy Survey (Pathway 1 and 2)

Q 14 - Our church has a climate resilience action plan that considers climate-related risks and the steps we will take to adapt to these (e.g. planning for flood and/or extreme heat and other emerging climate hazards and engagement with the local authority). [Resources](#)

Q 28 - Our church plans for future climate resilience and has a 'safe spaces' policy which enables people to use our buildings in extreme hot or cold weather, and/or as a space for conversations about climate change and its impacts.

Eco Church - Land and Nature Survey (Pathway 1)

Q 16 - Our church is planning and acting for land-based climate resilience through, for example protecting the soil by mulching, composting and using natural manures during periods of drought, creating shaded areas, rainwater management, creating wet mud patches to help birds that need mud for their nests.

A Rocha UK is working on the resource document to provide further information alongside these questions. The Eco Church survey recognises that churches and worshipping communities are central to communities and so, often to community responses to 'emergencies' or 'disasters' too.

Eco Church Overview Buildings and Energy resources links on pages 5 and 6.

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Overview-Buildings-and-Energy1.pdf>

Eco Church Buildings and Energy Resources

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/resources/buildings>

Church of England

Church buildings are often solidly built and, when maintained well, have withstood the weather over the centuries. However, as the climate changes, and weather events becomes more extreme, they can become vulnerable. Churches are often built on higher ground and more solidly constructed than houses around them, so can be a place of safety during a flood, and a cool sanctuary in a heatwave.

Becoming a Climate Resilient Church may seem daunting, but the guidance breaks down the process for any church to begin its resilience journey into five key steps:

- ✓ Good maintenance practices
- ✓ Identifying and discussing potential risks
- ✓ Creating a Future Climate Action Plan
- ✓ Communicating expectations
- ✓ Undertaking a regular review process

Church Buildings Council guidance includes support in creating climate-resilient communities.

https://churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/ccb_resilient_church_guidance_final.pdf

Webinars, Advice and Support, and Case Studies of Climate Resilient Churches

<https://churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/climate-resilient-church>

Chichester Diocese

Carbon Literacy Training - Diocesan Environment Officer, Rev Buff Forbes Stone

environment.officer@chichester.anglican.org

Parish Environment Support Network (PESN) meets monthly online, talks are recorded and downloadable notes and resources available. environment.officer@chichester.anglican.org

Net Zero Carbon Community of Practice (CoP) Shares good practice in reducing carbon emissions from church buildings on our journey to "net zero", including technical information and fundraising, to enable capital net zero related work. To join please complete [this](#) form.

Environment and Net Zero Carbon <https://chichester.anglican.org/environment&nzc/>

Eco-Anxiety and Sustaining Hope

Chichester Diocese Workshop Handout – Laura Steven, Head of Wellbeing for Clergy & Families.
<https://horshamct.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Eco-Anxiety-and-Sustaining-Hope.pdf>

Green Christian - Adaptation and Resilience

- Storm of Hope 2026 brochure <https://greenchristian.org.uk/storm-of-hope-2026>
- Resources <https://greenchristian.org.uk/introduction/resources/>

Insurance and Risk Analysis

Managing Risk from an Insurance Perspective

Discussing a church decarbonisation journey, how to reduce risks and ensure projects are safe and insurable. 3 minute video: <https://churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/more-information-about-net-zero-carbon-technology>

Climate Change and the Built Environment – Risk analysis, resilience and adaptation

Guide by Ecclesiastical to some of the key property insurance related risks facing us from climate change, and the trends that we're seeing develop.

<https://ecclesiastical.com/media/moullnvpv/climate-change-risks-to-your-property.pdf>

A Simple Maintenance Checklist For Your Church Building may help increase resilience against climate change effects. <https://ecclesiastical.com/media/wmyeqcyf/green-made-simple-checklist.pdf>

Positive News

Socially relevant and uplifting stories of progress – joining the dots between how people, communities and organisations are changing the world for the better. <https://positive.news>

Preparing for an Emergency - Sussex Resilience Forum

Local resilience forums bring together emergency services, councils, utilities and other essential public and voluntary services to work in partnership to support the local community during incidents and emergencies. <https://sussex.police.uk/SRF>

Emergencies can affect us all. There are some simple and effective steps to be more prepared. Government website has accessible and actionable advice on practical steps that individuals, households, and communities can take to improve their resilience to a range of risks and emergencies, and specific advice for disabled persons and carers. Taking action now will make it easier to manage if an emergency does happen. <https://prepare.campaign.gov.uk/>

Project Drawdown

An independent, internationally trusted organization driving meaningful climate action by connecting people like you to science-based climate solutions and strategies. <https://drawdown.org>

Sussex Green Living

Supporting and inspiring people to reduce their environmental impact through shopping more sustainably, reducing waste, recycling single-use plastics and repairing rather than buying new. <https://sussexgreenliving.org.uk> [Environmental Events Calendar](#)

Talking Climate - Katharine Hayhoe

"The reason I'm a climate scientist is because I'm a Christian. Climate change affects us all, but it doesn't affect us all equally. This injustice is what compels me to advocate so passionately for climate action" Talking Climate newsletters and podcasts, good news, not-so-good news, ideas on things to do, and ways to join the conversation. <https://katharinehayhoe.com>

Unlocking Regenerative Solutions for a Positive Future - Solutionist [Nicola Peel](#)

"Often people feel overwhelmed, telling themselves that one person can't make a difference. I am here to remind you that we can. Every action creates a ripple of change."

Make a Difference with Science-Based, High-Impact Climate Solutions

[Make a Difference 20.3.26](#)

Horsham Eco Churches <https://horshamct.org.uk/eco-churches>

Horsham
Eco Churches

