

Instructions:

To apply for a **Bronze Eco District Award**, you will need to:

Complete **this supporting evidence pro forma** showing how you meet the bronze criteria by providing the required evidence*

Refer to the guidance notes provided at the end of this document, to help you progress and gather evidence towards your Bronze Eco District award

Collate your District Eco Church data to summarise all registered and awarded churches

[Complete this Eco District Application Form](#)

Submit all supporting documentation via email to ecochurch@arocha.org

What happens next?

Once we have received your email we will review your application and supporting evidence. If there is any missing documentation, or if we have any questions or points to clarify we will get in touch via email. Sometimes we ask for further refinement of an answer to ensure it meets the guidelines for supporting evidence. Due to the nature of the evidence required we are not accepting handwritten pro formas, please do use a computer to fill it in.

Bronze Eco District status will be given to your District when it has achieved and can demonstrate the required evidence to meet the [Bronze Eco District criteria](#). (Processing times can take up to two months.)

**Please note*, this pro forma is a Google document set as 'view only'.

You will need to **save a copy to your own drive** or **download the file** as a Microsoft Word document to be able to edit it. When you download the document to Word, some of the formatting may be adjusted. If you discover any of the boxes are locked, and you cannot type text, try right-clicking and selecting 'Remove content control'. We encourage you to embed digital photos and include weblinks as appropriate.

Your District details

Name of Methodist District:

Methodist District website:

Eco District webpage link:

Eco District contact (your name and email):

District chair name and email:

Total number of churches in your District (including LEP's):

Please list here the files you are attaching to support your Eco District Bronze Award application:

- *Bronze Eco District Pro Forma (required)*
- *Eco District Application Form (required)*
- *Eco District commitment certificate (required)*
- *File name:*
- *File name:*

Bronze Eco District status will be given to your Methodist District when it has achieved and can demonstrate evidence of the following:

Fill in the pro forma below, showing how you meet the [bronze criteria](#) by providing the required evidence. Please submit this pro forma as part of your award application.

<u>Bronze Criteria</u> Please refer to the notes at the end for further guidance and support.																								
1. Registered its intent to become an Eco District.																								
1. Response: Share the date and a copy of your signed Eco District commitment certificate.																								
2. Ownership Commissioned an individual or group to coordinate [Eco Church] progress within the District.																								
2. Response (to add in extra rows, press enter): Share the name(s) and contact details of the individual or group members and a short description of the groups purpose.																								
3. Gained the appropriate levels of local church registrations and awards for Eco Church For Districts of any size: 15% of all local churches in your District registered for Eco Church; 10% of all local churches in your District awarded. Contact the District Environment lead for a list of all registered and awarded Eco Churches (including Local Ecumenical Partnerships) see guidance notes for further information.																								
3. Response: Complete this summary table: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">Criteria</th> <th style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Number</th> <th style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Number of churches in your District</td> <td style="width: 150px;"></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Number of churches registered with Eco Church</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Number of churches with a bronze Eco Church award</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Number of churches with a silver Eco Church award</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Number of churches with a gold Eco Church award</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Total number of churches with an award</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Date of data compilation</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Criteria	Number	%	Number of churches in your District			Number of churches registered with Eco Church			Number of churches with a bronze Eco Church award			Number of churches with a silver Eco Church award			Number of churches with a gold Eco Church award			Total number of churches with an award			Date of data compilation		
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4. Achieved the relevant Eco Church award level in relation to its District office

Submit evidence relevant to whether your District office is based in a church, manse, or rented office space.

Required for all District offices:

Provide a paragraph on how the District office has embedded sustainability into everyday practice and office policies.

4. Response (to add in extra rows, press enter):

Required:

Address of District office:

a) For District offices located in a church building

Please include the date on which the church achieved its Bronze Eco Church award.

b) For District offices located in a manse

Share your EPC certificate.

If your property is not currently rated EPC C or above, include a brief explanation of the improvements needed to achieve an EPC C rating.

c) For District offices located in rented office space

Please include the date on which the District office achieved its Bronze Eco Church award.

Required for all District offices:

Provide a paragraph on how the District office has embedded sustainability into everyday practice and office policies.

5. Environmental Policy

Required:

Write and publish a District Environmental Policy that has been agreed at District Synod.

The Environment Policy should include, where appropriate, points on travel, the environmental performance of Manses (re: Methodist Church standing order guidelines on Energy Performance Certificates) and a commitment to reducing carbon emissions (refer to [Action to Hope](#) for further guidelines on the Methodist aim to become a net zero carbon emissions church by 2030).

5. Response (to add in extra rows press enter):

Add weblinks, articles, and photos and separate files as appropriate to support your application.

- a) Share evidence that the District Environmental Policy has been agreed and the date signed off by your District Leadership Team (Synod).
- b) Share a weblink to your published District Environmental Policy on your District webpage.

6. Training and Development

Embedded environmental issues in ongoing training, education and support.

Provide opportunities for Presbyters, Deacons and local preachers to learn and grow in creation care awareness.

6. Response (to add in extra rows, press enter):

Add weblinks, articles, and photos and separate files as appropriate to support your application.

Share a paragraph on how the District has embedded environmental issues into ongoing training, education and support.

Provide details such as dates and session topics of past or upcoming training events and/or conferences focusing on environmental issues.

Share examples of how Presbyters, Deacons and local preachers can access materials to support theological reflection on our care for God's creation.

7. Finance and Investment

Managed District investments ethically:

With due consideration to the environmental implications / opportunities of such investments, taking into account the climate change investment policy of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.

7. Response (to add in extra rows press enter):

Add weblinks, articles, and photos and separate files as appropriate to support your application.

Provide evidence of ethical investment, for example a declaration that all investments are managed by the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB)

For other investments not managed by CFB, share a paragraph on how you are considering the environmental implications/opportunities of these investments.

8. Collaboration

Worked with other Districts and / or faith groups 'to encourage greater environmental action, including promoting Eco Church as a helpful tool'.

8. Response (to add in extra rows press enter):

Add weblinks, articles, and photos and separate files as appropriate to support your application.

- a) Share dates and details of joint meetings, events or initiatives showing environmental engagement with other Districts and/or denominations and/or faith groups at a District level.
- b) Share a paragraph of how you are promoting Eco Church within your District.

9. Celebrating Creation

Established the habit of recording and celebrating individual environmental initiatives.

9. Response (to add in extra rows, press enter):

Add weblinks, articles, photos, and separate files as appropriate to support your application.

Share evidence of how you are recording, sharing and celebrating environmental initiatives within your District. For example, share links to/ screenshots of District posts, websites and publications that demonstrate the importance of creation; through Eco Church awards, and other environmental actions.

Guidance notes to help you progress towards your Bronze Eco District award.

In addition to the notes below, there are further resources and links pertaining to the criteria on the [Eco Denominational Awards](#) web page.

Fill in this pro forma to track your progress and show how you meet the [bronze criteria](#).

1) Registered its intent to become an Eco District.

Please use the [Eco District Registration form here](#).

After completing the registration webform you will be sent a link to a blank commitment certificate for you to download and complete. This shows you have registered with A Rocha UK and that you are working towards Eco District status. This commitment certificate should be signed by your District Chair and Environment Lead or equivalent. You can print and display a copy in your District office, as appropriate, to highlight that you are a registered Eco District. Once registered your District will be updated on the [Eco District webpage](#).

2) Ownership:

To ensure the long-term success of Eco District, fostering a sense of ownership and coordination is essential. Whether led by an individual or a group, it's important to clearly define the group's purpose and how it will support and promote Eco Church within the District. Sharing ways for churches interested in joining Eco Church will also be valuable in building connections and momentum. For helpful resources, visit the [Promoting Eco Church page](#) on the Eco Church website.

3) Gained the appropriate levels of local church registrations and awards for Eco Church

To reach a Bronze Eco District award you need to have gained the appropriate levels of local church registrations and awards for Eco Church.

For Districts of any size:

- 15% of all local churches in your District registered for Eco Church;
- 10% of all local churches in your District awarded.

For help gathering the statistics needed to create your summary table, it is recommended that District Environment leads contact ecochurch@arocha.org to request access to their denominational data for up-to-date statistics of Eco Church registrations and awards. This data will include any Local Ecumenical Partnership churches. Please note, in order to comply with GDPR, access to data is limited to one Eco Lead per District. Please choose the most appropriate person to have the data access and conduct this analysis on behalf of the Eco Lead (if different from the Eco Lead).

An example of a summary table is as follows:

Criteria	Number	%
Number of churches in your District	100	
Number of churches registered with Eco Church	50	50%
Number of churches with a bronze, silver or gold Eco Church awards	14 Bronze 5 Silver 1 Gold 20 total	
Number of churches with an Eco Church award	20	20%
Date of data compilation	1st Aug 2025	

In this example this District has 100 Churches in its District, there are 50 churches (50%) registered with Eco Church, and it has 20 churches (20%) with an Eco Church award. This District has surpassed the Bronze Eco District levels of local church registrations and awards for Eco Church.

4) Achieved the relevant Eco Church award level in relation to its District office

How you answer this question depends on whether your District office is based in a church, manse, or rented office space.

a) For District offices located in **a church building**:

Please include the date on which the Church achieved its Bronze Eco Church award.

b) For District offices located in **a manse**

See the [Methodist Guidelines for Manses](#) section 5 on EPC ratings.

Energy Savings Trust has a [Guide to Energy Performance Certificates](#) and also offers further energy advice including how you can find your EPC rating. Your EPC report also gives recommendations on how to improve your EPC rating, for example, from E to C.

c) For District offices in **rented premises** you'll need to register the office on the Eco Church platform (e.g. Bristol District office), start a new Eco Church survey and answer all eight questions in the [buildings and energy category for pathway three](#), which is for churches without their own building (e.g. those that meet in rented space or outdoors) and all 14 questions in the [land and nature category for pathway two](#): for churches with very limited land OR that do not own/manage any land. You'll need to achieve the **bronze** threshold for both these survey categories in order to receive your Bronze Eco Church certificate. Please send an email to ecochurch@arocha.org to let the team know your survey is ready to be assessed in advance of submitting your award application, so that you can receive your Eco Church certificate. Please use the additional comments section to provide any extra information that supports your response.

For all District offices.

Provide a paragraph on how the District office has demonstrated sustainability in everyday office functions and policies.

5) Environmental Policy

Write and publish a District Environmental Policy that has been agreed at District Synod. Evidence can be in the form of a signed policy or an e-mail from Synod acknowledging and supporting the policy.

The Environment Policy should include, where appropriate, points on travel, the environmental performance of Manses (re: Methodist Church guidelines on [Energy Performance Certificate Ratings](#)) and a commitment to reducing carbon emissions (ref [Action to Hope](#)).

The policy should include, where appropriate, points on travel, the environmental performance of Manses (re: Methodist Church standing order guidelines on Energy Performance Certificates) and a commitment to reducing carbon emissions (refer to [Action for Hope](#) for guidance). Yorkshire West has examples of an [Environment Policy](#) and a [Climate Change policy](#).

6) Training and development

Training and development will look very different in each District. Evidence needs to be provided to show how training is offered to Presbyters, Deacons and local preachers. Training may be delivered in-house or via external courses. This does not need to be a formal education opportunity but can include webinars etc.

A few resourcing examples and materials to support theological reflection on our care for God's creation include; The [Methodist Environment and Climate Change. Action for Hope Wisdom resources](#) which includes the 'Hope in God's Future' report and study guide, [The Learning Network](#), [Methodist resource hub](#), the [Joint Public Issues Team \(JPIT\)](#), and Eco Church Worship and Teaching [overview](#) and [resources](#). Another helpful resource to support your training and development is the recently formed [Methodist Eco Community](#) which offers regular online forums.

7. Finance and Investments

In 2021 the [Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church](#) (CFB) fully divested from fossil fuel companies. Therefore, any District funds invested with the CFB are divested and are considered to be funded ethically. For any District funds not invested in CFB, there needs to be due consideration of the environmental implications/opportunities of such investments, taking into account the climate change investment policy of the DFB. (All District funds are invested in line with ethical principles consistent with good environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) criteria).

Helpful ethical investment guidelines can be found in: the climate change investment policy of the [Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church](#) and the [Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment \(JACEI\)](#).

Other helpful resources and support are available via the [Just Money Movement](#) and [The Greener, Fairer Banking Guide](#). The [Green Investment Declaration](#) is a toolkit to enable church institutions, such as Circuits and Districts, to not only have an impact through their investments but also speak publicly about it.

8. Collaboration

Collaboration is about joining forces with others for a greater positive impact on the environment. Whether it's learning from other Eco Districts on how they are encouraging environmental action, partnering with other environmental organisations, faith groups, Christian organisations and churches at a local, national or international level to raise awareness of environmental issues. Share examples from the past year on how you are actively collaborating.

Circuits are an important network within the District - working with your Circuits to [promote Eco Church](#) will be another important collaboration opportunity.

Nationally, the [Joint Public Issues Team \(JPIT\)](#) and [Net Zero in my Neighbourhood](#), can offer helpful resources and campaigns for your District to support, as well as other external environmental-focused organisations.

Globally, the [Methodist Global Relations Team](#) highlights partnerships with churches across the world and those impacted by climate change, for example mission partners who are currently overseas/ visiting the UK/ returned can be approached to give updates.

9. Celebrating Creation

Recognising and celebrating eco achievements is a powerful way to inspire and encourage others to take action. This might include regular updates - such as monthly reports on the number of Eco Churches registered or awarded, or sharing inspiring stories of churches actively caring for creation.

You may also want to weave this celebration into existing communications, such as adding an eco focus to your District newsletter. Share social media posts highlighting your Eco Church awards and don't forget to tag A Rocha UK's social media accounts using the hashtag #EcoChurch. This can be a collaborative effort - encourage people to send in good news stories and photos to help spread the word.

Celebrations can take many forms, from special services to events. Consider taking part with national initiatives such as the [Season of Creation](#) or [Great Big Green Week](#).

Be sure to share how your District is recording, communicating, and celebrating these environmental efforts. This could include links, screenshots, or examples from District websites, newsletters, or social media that showcase your commitment to creation care, through Eco Church awards and other green initiatives.