

Warwickshire **Climate Change Partnership**

15 June 2007

Submission Form for Case Studies

Community groups & schools

Please Insert:

Name of Group/School: Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church

Name of Project: Energy & Resource Efficiency

Category:

Choose category from one of the following themes:

1. Energy
2. Transport
3. Resource Efficiency
4. Adaptation
5. Communications and Education

(If you are unsure which category to choose, please leave blank)

Date 12th June 2007

Please return to: Dr. Jacky Lawrence, Strategic Energy Manager, Environmental Management, E&E, WCC, PO Box 43, Warwick CV34 4SX.

Email : climatechange@warwickshire.gov.uk, Web : www.warwickshire.gov.uk/climatechange



Warwickshire **Climate Change Partnership**

1 **Our Vision Statement**

This sets out our policy on climate change and the environment. (If you do not have one, please leave blank.)

In the Environmental Policy for the Methodist Church, the Methodist people are challenged and encouraged to care for the earth by following sustainable practice and taking into account global and local environmental considerations for present and future generation. This is to be achieved through: the conservation and use of resources in the Church and at home; in helping to develop more sustainable lifestyles; in active involvement in local Agenda 21 and other community initiatives.

2 **Project Concept - what we did.**

Below is listed the name of and a description of our project. Why we did it - What the aims and objectives were. How it was expected to work; what had to be done to make the project succeed and what the expected benefits of the scheme were.

Energy & Resource Efficiency is part of our EcoCongregation programme in Stratford Methodist Church. We aim to motivate our congregation to be good stewards of God's creation.

We have introduced environmental issues into both preaching and social events in the church. On a practical level, we have carried out an energy audit of the church premises to provide the pointers for energy saving.

We reduced electricity use by replacing with low energy light bulbs and reduced gas use by improving heating control. We put stickers next to light switches asking people to switch off light when not in use. The use of electricity and gas in the church is monitored by monthly meter reading.

We have introduced green measures in gardening.

We have also given active support to the water saving campaign by Severn Trent and plastic recycling by the local council. We set up a recycling centre in the church. We want to make the church premises more energy efficient and to help the congregation move towards a more sustainable life style.

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3 **Project Partners – who was involved.**

The names of all the people and all other organisations who helped deliver this project are listed below.

EcoCongregation: Jo Rathbone
Warwickshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre: David Jullien
Warwickshire Climate Action Network: David Passingham
Sustainability Unit of Warwickshire County Council: Gillian Rutledge

4 **What we learned from the project**

A description of what we learned in carrying out this project can be seen below, i.e. what the easy successes were, the overall outcome and any problems we had.

What worked?

- (1) Reduction in electricity consumption on the church premises. Most of the light bulbs (tungsten) have been replaced by low energy light bulbs (53 CF). The electricity used from December to April 07 was reduced by 20% from previous 2 years.
- (2) Reduction in gas consumption in the church premises. Modern timers have been installed for boilers and some of the radiators. The gas used for heating from December to April 07 was reduced by 28% from previous 2 years.
- (3) Recycling Centre in the church is in good use. Collections for plastic, tin foil, ink cartridges, old stamps, batteries and mobile phones have been supported by the congregation and premises users for more than 2 years.
- (4) Watering reduction in gardening was achieved by using low water requiring plants and the soil condition has been improved by compost from kitchen waste.

What didn't work?

Some users for recycling centre still ignore instructions by sending inappropriate material for recycling.

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How this project generated enthusiasm, won hearts and minds and made a difference

Through preaching and social events, the congregation at large is very keen to support the green measures in the church and are doing their bit at home to reduce their carbon footprint. People have been inspired by organised viewings of "Inconvenient Truth" in private homes and generally support farmer's market and Fairtrade. The fortnightly Fairtrade stall in the church is well supported. A recycling workshop for the young families in the Wesley's mother & toddler group was a great success.

What the unexpected knock-on effects of this project were - both good and bad.

- Car sharing is widely practised for both meetings in the church and in other churches in the circuit.
- More people are keen to take part in activities organised by Climate Action Forum or by Trade Justice movement.
- The fuel bill of the church has been reduced to compensate the rise in fuel cost.
- We received EcoCongregation award (06-08) & 2nd prize for religious ground in Stratford in Bloom 2006.

5 How emissions were reduced by doing this project – i.e. quantified fuel and energy savings

We list here the fuel and/ or energy savings associated with this project. The amount of greenhouse gas emissions, especially the amount of carbon dioxide, that have been saved or will be saved because of doing this project are quantified below. (Even a rough estimate will be useful to report.)

The saving of electricity and gas consumption in the winter/spring period (Dec / Apr; 130d) is about 1632 kWh and 40464 kWh, respectively, which is a saving of 6772 kg carbon dioxide emission, a reduction of 27% from the total carbon dioxide emission of 25 tonnes in the previous year.

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6 What we would do differently if we did this project again

Below is a description of what we would do differently in this project if we started again from scratch.

N/A

7 Continuous Improvement

Below is a description of what we intend to do next in tackling climate change within our group/community.

- (1) We will further reduce the waste of energy consumption on the church premises. We have put forward proposals to the church redevelopment committee for wall insulation and double glazing as well as installing a condensing boiler and area thermal control system.
- (2) We will promote using recycled paper in photocopying and using Ecover for washing up in the kitchen.
- (3) We will promote the setting up of microgeneration of electricity on the church premises.

Below is a description of what we would do if we were given £10,000 to do a climate change project.

Rain water collection and automated dripping system for the church garden. An automated watering system is ideal for an ageing congregation to manage gardening with rain water collected by the big roof of the church premises. It would be the best way to reduce the water consumption for gardening.

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8 **Contact Details – where to go for further information on the above project**

Below is a list of sources of information and relevant contact details for this project.

EcoCongregation in Stratford Methodist Church: Lim Ho (Co-ordinator)

9 **Any other useful information?**



Members of the church with the EcoCongregation award, highlighting the light bulb replacement scheme



Stickers encouraging people to switch off light switches were produced and put up around the church.

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Mrs Litterbug at the Environmental Service on 3rd June 2007.



Joining in the Environmental Service on 3rd June 2007.