

Role Description for Church Eco Friend

Role Description

Role Title	Church Eco Friend
Main Points of Contact	Synod Green Advocate Regional/Pastorate Eco Friend
Connected Roles	n/a
Sources of Support	Synod Green Advocate Regional/Pastorate Eco Friend Synod Support Team A Rocha's Eco Church resources URC Synod of Wales website
Location	National Synod of Wales
Time Commitment	Flexible, depending on the needs of the role and the capacity of the role holder.
Remuneration	Volunteers are not remunerated. The URC will ensure financial expenses incurred by volunteers while engaged in work related to this role will be reimbursed, in accordance with the URC expenses policy.

Background:

The National Synod of Wales affirms that care for creation, a just and sustainable relationship with the earth, and an active concern for the whole of God's good creation are fundamental Gospel commitments.

We know that human activity is responsible for the degradation of the earth through climate change. This is not the way that God would want it to be. It is harming the web of life, the balance of nature, and impacting most heavily upon the poorest people of the world.

We seek to care for creation and to enable the earth to flourish by considering the ecological impact of everything we do and minimising our carbon footprint, in accordance with the [URC Environmental Policy](#).

Role Summary:

We are building a team of committed volunteers across the Synod to enable good communication, collaboration and support for each other as we seek to increase creation care awareness and action and grow together as Eco Churches and an Eco Synod. Ideally the Green Team will include one or more Synod Green Advocates, Regional or Pastorate Eco Friends, and at least one Church Eco Friend in every congregation.

Some Eco Friends have been caring for creation within their church and community for years. Others are just starting out. Wherever your church is on its Eco Church journey and whatever your capacity for action, please consider becoming an Eco Friend – we would welcome you onto the Green Team.

Principal responsibilities and duties

As a Church Eco Friend, we would like you to:

1. be the hopeful and persistent voice for creation care and climate justice within your church
2. promote the Eco Church Starter Questionnaire and take first steps with your church
3. register your church on A Rocha's Eco Church scheme
4. speak to your Regional/Pastorate Eco Friend and/or the Synod Green Advocate
- share your news, challenges and ideas and ask for help whenever you need it

Here are some more ideas to help you take the creation care lead in your church:

- collaborate with your minister, Elders and lay preachers
- invite different groups to lead worship, setting Eco Church and creation care at the heart of church services
- engage with young people in your church or community - listen to their concerns and ideas and give them opportunities to get involved
- encourage discussions on how to reduce your church's carbon footprint and look at the appropriate guidance and resources
- engage ecumenically with local churches and partner with other local groups
- consider approaching your MS, MP and councillors about environmental issues
- remember your Regional/Pastorate Eco Friend or the Green Advocate are happy to answer any questions

Expected Standards

1. Promote a culture of open and effective communication.
2. Actively foster an environment which nurtures equality and cherishes diversity.
3. Take responsibility for own personal development and develop skills and knowledge applicable to this role.
4. Ensure compliance with safeguarding practice.

This role description reflects the overall scope and responsibilities of the role. However, it may change and evolve over time in order to meet organisational needs and this role description will therefore be subject to periodic review and change if required.