

Role Description for Synod Green Advocate

Role Description

Role Title	Synod Green Advocate
Main Points of Contact	Synod Creation Care Steering Group Synod Faith in Action Committee Synod Support Team
Connected Roles	Member of Synod Creation Care Steering Group Member of URC Green Apostles Group
Sources of Support	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.

Every synod has at least one Green Advocate (or Apostle) appointed by synod officers. You would have some freedom to shape your own role outside some central expectations.

Principal responsibilities and duties

A Synod Green Advocate is expected to

1. work as part of the Wales Synod Creation Care Steering Group
2. work alongside Regional/Pastorate (R/P) Eco Friends and Church Eco Friends to promote, encourage and enable A Rocha's Eco Church scheme in local churches
3. attend Synod Meetings to cultivate connections with Eco Friends, and to report and celebrate Eco Church successes and dedicated creation care action in local churches
4. become a member of the URC Green Apostles' Group (meets twice a year on zoom to share news, ideas and information)

A Synod Green Advocate is encouraged to

- report to the Synod Faith in Action Committee (meets four times a year on zoom or in person)
- contribute to the Synod newsletter and encourage contributions from churches
- collaborate with Synod Support Team to report and celebrate Eco Church progress and to monitor, where possible, carbon emissions across the Synod
- meet regularly on zoom with Regional/Pastorate Eco Friends
- keep informed of new campaigns and initiatives (e.g. Christian Aid, Green Christian, Climate Cymru) and share information with Regional/Pastorate Eco Friends
- promote the URC Environmental Policy 2023 with Regional/Pastorate Eco Friends and highlight useful guidance for churches e.g. A Rocha resources, CCSG resources on Synod website

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.