

eco- congregation



an environmental toolkit for churches

Module 12

global neighbours

*Sources and resources to help churches think
globally and act locally*

Eco-congregation Canada is a project of
A Rocha Canada – Christians in Conservation
Box 512 172 Street, Surrey, B.C., V3S 9R3 Registered Charity # 86663 8943 RR0001

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An invitation to change the world...

Memo from the Children of the 22nd century

To: Churches across Britain and Ireland

Place: Planet Earth

Date: The start of the 21st century

Dear Mothers and Fathers,

We write to invite your church to play a role in helping to care for the environment and nurture the well-being of people across the earth. It is now vital to plan and act to ensure that the needs of your generation are met without compromising the ability of our generation to enjoy life in fullness too. Some of your contemporaries say that it can't be done. We say that it must be done!

Imagine that you are in a large Ark called Planet Earth. Instead of having two of every creature on board, you have the whole created order! Your challenge is to manage the finite stocks and renewable resources so that you and we, and those that will follow us, can have a share. You must also ensure that the rest of creation is respected and not desecrated. We don't want to be left with your waste in the form of pollution and a ravaged earth. It is a tall order, and one that requires your immediate thought and action, for the well-being of tomorrow's world is in your hands this day.

On behalf of tomorrow's children

Across time and space

We live in an increasingly global society. A stone cast in a pond in one place can cause ripples in places far and wide. A hiccup in a commodity market can spell hunger for a farmer in a developing nation. An environmental accident in one nation can quickly spread down wind and down stream to other nations. Neither economics nor environmental issues/incidents obey international, political or geographical boundaries. This linkage applies to our lifestyles. The way that we choose to live can have an impact, for good or for ill, on people in developing nations and the environment across the world, today and for future generations.

This module is designed to help churches and individuals identify those areas where they can make a positive impact on the well-being of the environment and the poorest people in developing nations. It features information about issues and campaigns together with ideas for action.

“Justice and ecology are linked indissolubly”

- Archbishop Desmond Tutu

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This quote is on the Access to Catholic Social Justice Teachings website: www.justpeace.org and can be applied to any social justice teachings...

"WARNING: The study, practice, and spirituality of Catholic social justice teachings may be hazardous to your hard-heartedness, complacency, skepticism, indifference, and hubris. Proceed at your own risk! | Those who shut their ears to the cry of the poor will themselves also call and not be heard. Proverbs 21:13 | You are the God of the lowly, the helper of the oppressed, the supporter of the weak, the protector of the forsaken, the savior of those without hope. Judith 9:11"

One World Week

One World Week (OWW) is your chance to join thousands of others, just like or not at all like you, in doing your bit to celebrate, learn and act for a fairer world.

One World Week grew out of a need to:

- learn about what's going on in that world – both on our doorsteps and far away
- celebrate the good things about being part of one diverse yet interconnected world
- take action to change the things that cause injustice, poverty and degradation.

OWW springs into life when thousands of activists around the world prepare eight days each October as a focus for celebrating and sharing the richness and diversity of the world we all inhabit. Drawing on the inspiration of an annually changing theme, churches and community groups hold educational and celebratory events to build understanding and links between people.

The following illustrates the diversity of OWW activities:

- Stockton URC held a OWW quiz with food cooked from around the world
- Slough One World Festival performed poetry in diversity
- Peruvian and Jamaican cooks offered culinary experiences in Hertfordshire
- A Church in Wallasey hosted a 'one world' open morning with talks and displays
- A group from Calne, Wiltshire held a children's Caribbean drumming workshop
- A Cardiff group protested at deaths in East Timor
- Churches Together in Lytham St Annes held an ecumenical celebratory service
- Haslingden litter bug eaters made a garden out of a grot spot
- Woking Cinema Club screened a rare film from Senegal
- In Masaka, Uganda, the Youth Organisation events include playing The Global Game and a football match

How could your church celebrate and mark OWW?

Resources

The OWW office provides an exciting, easy-to-use Action Kit each year, to help you plan OWW events, or to incorporate OWW into existing programmes and events.

Contact:

One World Week, PO Box 2555, Reading RG1 4XW. Tel. 0118 9394933
Email: enquiries@oneworldweek.org, Website: www.oneworldweek.org

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OWW Scotland Email: scotland@oneworldweek.org

OWW Wales c/o Welsh Centre for International Affairs, Temple of Peace, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3AP Tel: 02920 821055, Email: claresainleyberry@wcia.org.uk

Quote

“My picture of a green church is a community committed to caring for the earth, a church co-operating to steward the earth’s resources, Christ’s body collaborating across the globe.”

Rev’d Penny Jones, Minister, St John’s Rookhope Anglican/Methodist Church.

Christian development agencies

Some of the leading development agencies in Canada were established by churches to bring good news to the poor across the world. These agencies include Canadian Christian Relief and Development Agency (CCRDA), Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC), and CAUSE Canada. A list of contact addresses is given below.

The work of the development agencies has its origins in offering Christian care to the most needy. The organizations undertake a wide variety of work including:

- long-term development work, often in partnership with the world’s poorest communities
- disaster/emergency relief in times of need
- research and analysis of poverty issues
- campaigning issues affecting the world’s poorest
- educational work to raise awareness of poverty issues and how to bring about change

Through their work several of the agencies have identified environment as a key issue in development work and the alleviation of poverty. In terms of development work, environmental considerations are usually considered in project work because ultimately taking care of the environment benefits people too. For example, working to conserve forests and trees can reduce soil loss and help to maintain sustainable agriculture, so enabling people to provide sufficient food. In terms of disaster/emergency relief Christian Aid in the UK have identified that 9 of the last 11 so-called natural disasters that they have responded to were caused by climate change with a strong link to global warming. It suggests that many of the victims are literally paying the price of other people’s wasteful lifestyle.

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St John's Church of Scotland in Hamilton got their Eco-Congregation activities off to a flying start by holding a "Going for Green" week culminating in two special services. The evening service included a musical about rainforest conservation, "The Emerald Crown", presented by St John's Primary school, which put across a very serious message about the threats to the rainforest in a light-hearted way. The church went on to raise £2234 through their Harvest Appeal and Craft Fayre for Floresta – a Christian Charity which aims, through loans and education programs, to help tropical subsistence farmers to move away from 'slash and burn' agriculture, which destroys the rainforests, towards more sustainable farming practices.

Floresta

US Office: 4903 Morena Boulevard, Suite 1215, San Diego, CA 92117
Phone: 800-633-5319 or (858) 274-3718, Fax: (858) 274-3728,
E-mail: floresta@xc.org, www.floresta.org

Houston Christian Reformed Church in Houston, B.C. held a Hunger Awareness dinner based on the World At The Table activity on the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee website (www.crcna.org/pages/crwc_youthresources.cfm). Fifty people gathered to share a meal. Once there, the room was divided into 3 groups by drawing numbers from a hat. 20% of the group represented the wealthy with more than enough to eat each day. 60% represented people in the world who lived a sustainable lifestyle and 20% represented the people who do not have enough to eat each day. The wealthy group were served steak, potatoes, vegetables, a decadent dessert and sparkling grape juice. The "sustainable" group helped themselves to a rice and bean dish, fruit juice and a piece of fruit. The poor group had to go to the farthest room to get "dirty" water (it had brown food coloring in it) and then to the opposite side of the dining room to get a bowl of rice. It was fun to see how people reacted and interacted with each other. By the end of the night many of the wealthier people were sharing their meal with the poorer people and discussion turned to inequality and poverty issues. Money raised went to help a family in Uganda, Africa to get out of the rental market and into a home.

Margaret Keir from **Fairlie Parish Church of Scotland** writes:

For Harvest 2002, we arranged with the Minister that the Christian Aid workshop materials "Planting trees, planting life" should be used for the service. It was a fun service in which the children participated fully. The offering was sent to Christian Aid for the Tree of Life Appeal, to help with the planting of saplings "to protect the soil and supply food such as almonds and apricots" in Afghanistan "struggling with the aftermath of war and four years of severe drought." We have since received an update from Afghanistan expressing their gratitude and indicating how the people "have benefited from seed, water and fertilisers. This is the first year since the drought began that (they) have wheat from the land, as well as water melon, cumin and barley."

Trade

As the 21st century begins, several major Christian development agencies are focussing some of their campaigning work on the issue of trade. The following are some thoughts on trade, drawn from the One World Week 2000 Ecumenical Worship Anthology.

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People and the Earth are God's creation and the goods of the Earth are intended for all to share. These are fundamental principles of Christian belief. For a Christian, people are always more important than profit. Rich countries and businesses do not just have rights, but also responsibilities towards people and the environment. Human lives should not be sacrificed on the altar of the new god of free trade. Justice demands that if trade is carried out between two partners who are not equal in power or wealth, every effort must be made to ensure that the trade is fair. What would global trade look like if people and the earth mattered?

“Not to enable the poor to share our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs.”

St John Chrysostom

Listening and responding to God's word...

Listen to this, you that trample on the needy and try to destroy the poor of the country. You say to yourselves, “We can hardly wait for the holy days to be over so that we can sell our corn. When will the sabbath end, so that we can start selling again? Then we can overcharge, use false measures, and tamper with the scales to cheat our customers. We can sell worthless wheat at a high price. We'll find a poor man who can't pay his debts, not even the price of a pair of sandals, and we'll buy him as a slave.”

The Lord, the God of Israel, has sworn, “I will never forget their evil deeds.

Amos 8:4-7

Our choice could tip the balance in favour of the poor and lighten the load of those weighed down

We could level inequality and distribute warehouse mountains
Share out the wealth that was never ours to hoard
Turn the tables on those who play the markets

We could stockpile generosity and speculate in hope
Sell up our share of selfishness and settle for the dividends of solidarity

For added value build portfolios of justice
Or an ISA in the growth of the Kingdom of God
Buy shares in trust and act in faith
risk our securities to find a richer life

May the percentage of our interest in people rise
and may we be the prophets of hope.

Sophie Stanes/Cafod

For more information on trade-related issues contact either One World Week or a Christian development agency (contact details on previous page).

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Fair Trade

TransFair Canada

TransFair Canada is Canada's only non-profit certification and public education organization promoting Fair Trade Certified to improve the livelihood of developing world farmers and workers.

Fair Trade is similar to a normal supply chain model of business. There are producers, importers, processors, retailers and consumers. The difference is the monitoring and certification at the core of the system which guarantees that the supply chain is built on and functions according to standards of fairness, transparency and accountability

Fair trade aims to make a real difference to people lives by:

- Challenging the conventional model of trade, and offering a progressive alternative for a sustainable future.
- Empowering consumers to take responsibility for the role they play when they buy products from the third world

Contact:

TransFair Canada
328 Somerset West, Ottawa ON, K2P 0J9
Phone: 613-563-3351
Fax: 613-563-1462
Toll Free 1-888-663-FAIR
Email: info@transfair.ca Website: www.transfair.ca

Co-Development Canada

More than 20 years of building partnerships for global justice.

CoDev is a BC-based non-profit agency that works for social change and global education in the Americas. CoDev was founded in 1985 by a group of activists who wanted to go beyond simply sending financial aid to Latin American countries. We believe that partnerships between like-minded organizations, in Canada and Latin America can be vehicles for learning, social change, and personal empowerment.

Contact:

CoDevelopment Canada
260-2747 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C. V5K 1Z8
Phone: 604-708-1495
Fax: 604-708-1497
Email: codev@codev.org Website: www.codev.org

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The **Mountainview A Rocha Community Group** in Didsbury, Alberta held a Fair Trade Café. For a town of 3000 organizers were delighted to have 80-100 people show up to learn more about fair trade and environmental issues in their community.

Stockton United Reformed Church has run a Traidcraft stall for over 10 years. Staffed by a willing rota of volunteers, it stocks a supply of 'core' goods and also has catalogues available for perusal from which it takes orders. Whilst the stall aimed to break even from the outset, it has generated a profit each year which goes towards social responsibility activities and outreach. It has been remarked that the Traidcraft stall acts as an additional incentive for people to come to worship week-by-week!

St Mary the Virgin, Easington, Co. Durham host a display of fairly-traded (and environmentally-friendly goods) for sale in their local supermarket to raise members awareness of their availability. **Papa Westray Church, Orkney** persuaded the community co-operative shop to stock fairly traded goods. Now they are easily available to the whole island community.

Barnstaple Parish Church held a 'Parish Eco Day' to encourage the congregation to change their personal lifestyles. Part of the day focussed on how our personal lifestyles can contribute to global problems. The congregation learnt about food by example: the refreshments were entirely home grown, locally produced or fairly traded goods. The food was extremely tasty and everyone was fed to capacity (coffee, lunch and tea) for only 50p each!

Dundee Church of Scotland Presbytery has become a Fairtrade Presbytery. Almost 70% (and rising!) of charges in the presbytery use Fairtrade tea and coffee and a range of Fairtrade produce is available and served at Presbytery meetings and other events. They have also raised awareness of their efforts through the media.

A Rocha – Caring for God's creation together

The story of A Rocha

A Rocha is an international conservation organisation working to show God's love for all creation. It began life in 1983 when the A Rocha Trust was formed. A Rocha's first practical project was to establish a Christian field study centre in Portugal, which opened in 1986 on the Alvor estuary. In 1994, with the Portuguese project under national management, the UK Trustees decided to respond to requests for help from elsewhere. In the period 1997-2004, new A Rocha projects have been established in fourteen countries spanning five continents: Europe, North America, South America, Africa and Asia. There are national membership schemes in each country.

A Rocha Canada is based in British Columbia's lower mainland. We work out our commitment to environmental action through community-based conservation projects, with a focus on science and research, practical conservation, and environmental education. Our project locations currently include:

- The Little Campbell River near Vancouver, British Columbia
- Pembina Valley near Morden in southern Manitoba

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A Rocha Canada functions under the umbrella of A Rocha International and works alongside a family of A Rocha projects in 17 countries around the world in places as diverse as urban London and the Kenyan coast. The name “A Rocha” is Portuguese, and means “The Rock.”

Contact: A Rocha Canada, 512 172 Street, Surrey, B.C. V3S 9R3 Phone: 604-542-9022; email: canada@arocha.org; Website: www.arocha.org/canada

Some snapshots from A Rocha International

Cruzinha, Ria De Alvor – Portugal. In the first 18 years since the establishment of the field study centre and bird observatory in south west Portugal in 1986, thousands of visitors have taken part in the environmental education programmes and over 400 volunteers and students have been trained, many of whom continue to be active in environmental issues. The database at Cruzinha now holds records of over 60,000 birds ringed, while extensive studies of plants and fungi, moths and butterflies have given a firm basis for influential reports and articles on the Algarve's environment. Proposals for reserve status for the Alvor Estuary stem directly from A Rocha studies.

Arabuko-Sokoke Forest – Kenya. A Rocha Kenya was formally established in 1998 and opened the Mwamba Bird Observatory and Field Study Centre in Watamu, in the coastal district of Malindi, in 2002. Malindi is home to some of the richest and most diverse habitats in the whole of Kenya. The Arabuko-Sokoke Forest alone is home to at least 5 globally endangered species and has been designated a UNESCO world heritage site. However, a growing population and high levels of poverty put a huge strain on the relationship between local people and their environment. By working with local communities, A Rocha Kenya aims to achieve the long-term conservation of threatened habitats and species in this area.

Aammiq Marsh – Lebanon. The Aammiq Marsh is Lebanon's most significant remaining freshwater wetland, one of all too few in the Middle East. This major stop-over site for migrating birds is under severe threat. Due to the work of A Rocha since 1997, the decline in the habitats of the wetland has been reversed. Current efforts are focused on protecting the marsh through scientific study, practical conservation and environmental education.

Minet Country Park - UK. The initial focus for A Rocha's work in the UK has been the A Rocha Living Waterways Project in Southall and Hayes, West London, which was launched in early 2001. Located in a heavily built-up, culturally diverse area the project aims to open up the wonders of God's creation to people who have little chance to enjoy the beauty of the natural world at first hand. A Rocha Living Waterways has worked with local landowners, Hillingdon Council and other community groups to turn a 90 acre wasteland site between Southall and Hayes into the Minet Country Park, with recreational space and nature conservation areas.

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Climate Change

Introduction

There are many ways in which our individual and corporate lifestyles affect the global environment and impact on other peoples and species both now and in the future. Probably the most serious of these issues is Climate Change, sometimes known as “global warming”.

Human activities, particularly the burning of oil, coal and gas, produce carbon dioxide and other gases, known as ‘greenhouse gases’, which trap heat from the sun. It is now clear that these activities are affecting the global climate. The effects of climate change are already starting to be visible and are likely to get worse for some time to come, even if we succeed in cutting back our greenhouse gas emissions. They include rising sea-levels, an increase in storms and flooding in some places and drought in others and changes in the distribution of some disease-bearing organisms.

Canada is one of the highest emitters of greenhouse gases in the world. We use a great deal of energy in our homes, our industries and businesses and in transport. But it is the poor who will feel its worst effects. It is estimated that, by 2050, rising sea levels, severe weather and crop failures could create 150 million refugees. Even in the UK, an estimated 5 million people are at risk from increased flood and storm damage.

One book that can help you understand Canada’s place in the climate change picture is called *A Way Forward: Canadian perspectives on post-2012 climate policy* produced by the International Institute for Sustainable Development and can be found at http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2007/a_way_forward.pdf

Contact: **International Institute for Sustainable Development**
161 Portage Avenue East, 6th Floor, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0Y4
Tel.: +1 (204) 958-7700, Fax: +1 (204) 958-7710
Website: <http://www.iisd.org>

Module 7 on caring for church premises and **Module 10** on personal lifestyles both give advice on saving energy in church and at home. Reducing the amount of energy we use reduces our impact on the climate.

Re-energize Campaign

Kairos: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives’ Re-energize campaign: Time for a Carbon Sabbath is a three-year campaign for personal, community and political change.

As part of the Re-energize campaign KAIROS is beginning an exciting partnership with Natural Resources Canada’s Office of Energy Efficiency. This initiative is designed to educate and inform members of faith communities, especially those with responsibility for buildings and properties, about specific programs and opportunities they can access to reduce their GHG emissions. The Energy Innovators Initiative (EII) is just one example of the efforts now underway to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet Canada’s obligations under the Kyoto Protocol.

Visit www.re-energize.org to get involved.

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Contact:

Kairos

129 St. Clair Ave. West, Toronto, ON M4V 1N5

Phone: 416-463-5312 Toll free: 1-877-403-8933 x221 Email: info@kairoscanada.org

Website: www.kairoscanada.org

Myra Stonley from the **Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin in Easington Village** writes:

We held an open evening on the theme of Climate Change – what it might mean to us and our children’s future and what we can do about it. A representative from County Hall gave an illustrated talk about Durham County’s action plan on climate change and children from the local school performed the drama about climate change “The Ark in the Garage”, produced by Christian Ecology Link. The local council also provided a display and advice on energy saving in the home and low energy light bulbs were available. Although the rain came down in torrents there was quite a large audience of parents and children with many questions and discussions.

Zion United Reformed Church, Northallerton, held a games evening to launch “Operation Noah” and the concept of global warming and energy conservation. They started by using a global footprint game so that people could work out how many planets would be needed if everyone in the world lived like them. They then had a short presentation from Hambleton District Council on what is happening locally on climate change. They followed this up by playing a version of Pictionary with a difference! They divided into groups. Each group had to work their way through 3 different subjects (home, transport and church & community), which they had to guess from one of their team members modelling, miming or drawing the subject. Once they had guessed the subject, they had to produce a list of ways in which they could reduce energy consumption, and therefore global warming, in that area. At the end of the game everyone came back together to discuss their ideas. Finally, one of the organisers introduced Operation Noah and where that fitted into the picture and gave out the Operation Noah Campaign cards.

Reflection: an orb

An orb of blue swirls, greens swaths, yellows and browns, capped with white
Babbling with brooks and birds, buzzing with bugs and bees
Celebrating creation in music and movement

An orb of beauty, cut deep with scars
Home to warriors and widows, wars and waste
Criss-crossed with the longitude and latitude of Christ’s love

An orb of unity and division, hope and despair
Cirled by multi-coloured hands
Joined in love and action to transform God’s world

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Prayers

Prayer for Sustainable Development

In 2002, to help churches prepare for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, Eco-Congregation got together with A Rocha, the John Ray Initiative and Christian Ecology Link to produce briefing materials for churches. The Acrostic prayer* below was written as part of those materials.

Creating God, you have given us a vision of a new heaven and a new earth...

Resources conserved

Earth tended

Atmosphere cleansed

Trees planted

Injustice ended

Oceans teeming

Nations at peace

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer

Alert nations, enthuse churches

Recieve our commitment and so entwine our lives with Your purpose.

Earth and heaven will then sing of your glory. Amen.

**in an acrostic verse the first letter of each line spell a word or phrase*

Week of Prayer for World Peace

The Week of Prayer for World Peace is a Christian initiative that quickly became an inter-faith activity and is held each year as a week of prayer leading into One World Week. Their 2000 leaflet included the following prayer:

God of creation,
help us to realise that it is in your world
that we live and move and have our being.
Give us the generosity to respect your world
and strive continually to recognise you
in all you have created.

The International Prayer for Peace

Lead me from death to life,
from falsehood to truth.

Lead me from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.

Lead me from hate to love,
from war to peace.

Let peace fill our heart,
our world, our universe.

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A directory of **useful organisations**

Cause Canada

Founded in 1984, CAUSE Canada is an International Relief and Development Organization which strives to empower communities and individuals in disadvantaged regions to overcome poverty and improve quality of life.

#4, 5308 17th Avenue, S.W. Calgary, Alberta, T3E 6S6 Phone: 403-678-3332, Toll free: 1-888-552-2873, Email: info@cause.ca, Website: www.cause.ca

Christian Reformed World Relief Committee

The Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) is the relief and development arm of the Christian Reformed Church. It reaches out in God's name to people, both in North America and around the world, who are struggling with poverty, hunger, disaster, and injustice to help them find lasting ways to improve their lives.

3475 Mainway, Box 5070 Stn LCD1, Burlington Ontario, L7R 3Y8
Phone: 905-336-2920. Website: www.crwrc.ca

Canadian Christian Relief and Development Agency

The Canadian Christian Relief and Development Association (CCRDA) is an association of Canadian Christian organizations and individuals involved in relief, development, and justice who are committed to integrated, transformational development.

CCRDA 200 Silver Aspen Cres., Kitchener, Ontario, N2N 1J1
Phone: 519-579-0633, Email: ccrda@ccrda.ca, Website: www.ccrda.ca

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace supports initiatives to enable people in the South to take control of their lives and education, advocacy and fund-raising work in Canada. Typical projects involve peace-building, human rights, agrarian reform, education, community development and economic justice. Much of the work of Development and Peace is carried out in collaboration with Canadian and international partners.

10 St. Mary Street, Suite 420, Toronto, ON M4Y 1P9
Phone: 514-257-8711 Email: info@devp.org or ccodp@devp.org Website: www.devp.org

Kairos: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives

129 St. Clair Ave. West, Toronto, ON M4V 1N5
Phone: 416-463-5312 Toll free: 1-877-403-8933 x221 Email: info@kairoscanada.org
Website: www.kairoscanada.org

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) is the Anglican Church of Canada's agency for sustainable development, relief, refugees, and global justice. With the support of Anglican parishes across Canada, PWRDF makes financial and human resources available to support partners' initiatives and to promote knowledgeable actions of solidarity at home and around the world.

80 Hayden Street, Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2

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Phone: 416-924-9192 Email: pwrdf@pwrdf.org Website: www.pwrdf.org

Transfair Canada

TransFair Canada is Canada's only non-profit certification and public education organization promoting Fair Trade Certified to improve the livelihood of developing world farmers and workers.

Contact: 328 Somerset West, Ottawa, ON K2P 0J9
Phone: 613-563-3351 Toll Free: 1-888-663-FAIR
Email: info@transfair.ca Website: www.transfair.ca

Oxfam Canada

Oxfam Canada, founded in 1963, is an international development agency working with over 100 partner organizations in Africa, the Americas and Asia. We work with partners to tackle the root causes of poverty, injustice and inequality, helping to create self-reliant and sustainable communities, with a specific focus on women.

Contact: 250 City Centre Avenue, Suite 400, Ottawa, Ontario, K1R 6K7
Tel: 613-237-5236 , Fax: (613) 237-0524, Email: info@oxfam.ca Website: www.oxfam.ca

Sierra Club Canada

412-1 Nicholas Street Ottawa, ON K1N 7B7
Phone: 613-241-4611 Toll Free: 1-888-810-4204
Email: info@sierraclub.ca Website: www.sierraclub.ca

Friends of the Earth Canada

260, St. Patrick Street, Suite 300 Ottawa, ON K1N 5K5
Phone: 613-241-0085 Email: foe@foecanada.org Website: www.foecanada.org

World Wildlife Fund Canada

Head office: 245 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 410, Toronto, ON M4P 3J1
Phone: 1-800-26-PANDA or 416-489-8800
Email: ca-panda@wwfcanada.org Website: www.wwf.ca

After completing a green audit, **Bethesda Methodist Church in Cheltenham** came up with ten green commitments including a determination to expand the support given by the church to work overseas. They linked up with a locally based charity – the International Centre for Conservation Education (ICCE) – and initiated a project to collect knitting needles and crochet hooks which had been requested by Malawi villagers. This eventually resulted in the donation of 6 sewing machines in good working order and one of the church members travelled to Malawi with ICCE's Director to run a sewing course for ten women chosen by their villages. This was so successful that plans are already being made to collect more sewing machines in order to expand the programme which is now operating under the direction of the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi.

Contact: International Centre for Conservation Education, Brocklebank, Butts Lane, Woodmancote, Cheltenham, Glos, GL52 9QH. Tel: 01242 674839, Fax: 01242 674839, Email: enquiries@icce.org.uk, Web: www.icce.org.uk

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About Eco-Congregation

Eco-Congregation is an ecumenical environmental project for churches in Britain, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and Canada. It provides free resources, support and an Award program to help churches to consider environmental issues in the context of their Christian life and mission and to take positive action. Eco-Congregation was originally developed by the environmental charity ENCAMS on behalf of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI). It is now overseen by CTBI and delivered by a partnership of organisations.

In Canada, Eco-congregation is managed and delivered by A Rocha Canada.

Contact: A Rocha Canada, 512 172 Street, Surrey, B.C. V3S 9R3

Tel: 604 542-9022

Email: canada@arocha.org

Web: www.arocha.org/canada

In England, Eco-Congregation is managed by A Rocha UK and supported by a grant from the Methodist Relief and Development Fund. The office base is at The Arthur Rank Centre (ARC). Contact: 024 7669 2491, Email: ecocongregation@arocha.org , Web: www.ecocongregation.org/englandwales

In Scotland, Eco-Congregation is managed and delivered through a partnership between Keep Scotland Beautiful (an Associated company of ENCAMS) and the Society, Religion and Technology Project (SRT) of the Church of Scotland. It is endorsed by Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS) and is supported financially by the Scottish Executive's Sustainable Action Fund. Contact : +44 (0)131 556 2953 , Email: ecocongregation@srt.org.uk , Web: www.ecocongregation.org/scotland

Churches in Wales are supported by Eco-Congregation based at the Arthur Rank Centre.