

The projects listed here date back to 2010 but nonetheless contain examples of actions which parishes and local groups can take to address climate change and the environment. Many of the contacts will be out of date but many of the ideas, along with resource material, remain relevant today. Most dioceses today also have climate and environment groups where other resources and working groups may be found.

Climate and Environment Local Projects

Only gradually has the Church addressed the Care of Creation dimension of the ACC Mission Statement. These last nine projects, however, outline some of the creative things being done.

M118 Global Climate Change 1

Background Climate change is considered by scientists and governments to be a serious challenge to human civilisation, social justice, health and welfare. Our bishops have highlighted the issue (2006), as has the ACC in 2009. Churches are able to show commitment to intergenerational justice and to the Earth, through the work of individuals in communal networks.

The 'Diocesan Climate Change Action Group' (DCCAG) comprises 10-12 members from parishes in the Auckland diocese. Approved by Auckland Synod in 2007, DCCAG has set up a programme of workshops on global climate change. It has developed materials supporting

sustainable living for parishes and in advocacy.

Aims

1. to raise awareness of the theology, science, economics and politics of global climate change, particularly in relation to Christian faith
2. to provide practical information on how individuals and parishes can live more sustainably.

How the Project Works Workshops are generally held on Saturdays from 9am-4pm, and hosted by local parishes, which do most of the marketing. Workshops offer illustrated presentations plus breakout discussion groups. A DVD of all presentations is provided free to participants with other resource material available at cost. The material is updated for each workshop.

Outcomes Participants rate the workshops highly for their content and quality, and feedback is used to improve the workshops. All are encouraged to take practical action to minimise their personal, family and parish carbon footprints. Ideally, this should be followed up at parish level.

Observations The workshops require ongoing work by a team of people in regular contact. They are a first stage in raising awareness of global climate change and encouraging practical action throughout the diocese. Enthusiastic participation and marketing by the host parish is essential.

To date, these workshops have attracted largely older persons. More work is urgently needed to reach the younger age groups, who will bear the burden of climate change in the future. More work is also needed to encourage clergy to support parish initiatives in living more sustainably.

Further Information

Details of material from recent workshops are available on the Anglican Social Justice website: <http://www.justice.net.nz/>.

These are freely available but should be updated as required. A degree of knowledge is required to use them well.

Further Information

DCCAG Chair, Dr. Richard Milne,
richard.milne@hoa.co.nz

M119 Global Climate Change 2

Project Title

Expert Workshop on Global Climate Change

Background In 2006 a small group of Anglicans became aware that global climate change is likely to shape the future of the planet and the human race. It was also clear that most of us did not understand the science of climate change or its implications. We therefore set up an expert workshop to inform ourselves and others. The event was organised in consultation with the Royal Society of New Zealand, the Social Justice group and the Chapter of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Parnell.

Project Designed for church members and the general public.

Aims

- to raise awareness of the theology, science, economics and politics of global climate change in relation to Christian faith
- to provide practical information on a range of options for individuals to live more sustainably and reduce their carbon footprints.

How the Project Worked A one-day 'Expert Workshop' was held in August 2006. The workshop included presentations by a range of experts and smaller workshops specific to particular topics.

Plenary sessions

- *Planet Earth: ours to Sustain* Richard Randerson, (then) Dean, Holy Trinity Cathedral
- *The Science of Climate Change*, Dr. David Wratt, NIWA
- *The Impact of Climate Change on the NZ Environment*, Assoc. Prof. Richard Warrick, Waikato University
- *The Response to Climate Change by Society*, Prof. Ralph Chapman, Victoria University of Wellington
- *The Impact of Climate Change on the NZ Economy*, Canon Rod Oram
- *Energy Efficiency Strategies*, Heather Staley, CEO of EECA .

Breakout workshops There were five parallel breakout workshops, each of which was repeated:

- Theology of creation; presentation and discussion
- Solar hot water demonstration
- Hybrid vehicle demonstration
- Energy efficiency discussions
- Discussion on ways to 'lighten your footprint on the planet'.

There was also a bookstall, sale of sustainable shopping bags with a Cathedral logo, a Trade Aid counter and stalls by Greenpeace and other environmental organisations. There was no charge for the 'expert workshop' but a koha was requested at the door. Copies of the main presentations were made available on the Cathedral website.

Outcomes About 150 people attended the expert workshop and most stayed all day. No formal evaluation was undertaken, but anecdotally participants found it very valuable. The Workshop generated sufficient interest to form a 'Diocesan Climate Change Action Group' (see M118).

Observations This expert workshop is well suited to new topics that require expert input. It entailed a great deal of work; finding partners for co-sponsorship; identifying appropriate speakers and raising funds for their travel; inviting local leaders and entrepreneurs for individual workshops and stalls; widespread marketing across the city; provision of technical support and person power to set up stalls; and coordination of a team of supporters.

Further Information Some of the workshop material is no longer current, but details of updated materials from recent smaller workshops on global climate change are available on the Anglican Social Justice website: <http://www.justice.net.nz/>

Contact Person

Dr. Richard Milne: richard.milne@hoa.co.nz

M120 Transition Town

Background This project in Motueka is one of many New Zealand Transition Towns that sprang into existence from 2007 on. Each Transition Town has a different character, focusing on issues that matter to those involved. The impelling factor is that big changes are

occurring – climate change is upon us, peak oil will affect everyone, the financial crisis is causing unemployment. Beneath all these phenomena is the fact that we are living in disharmony with the Earth, and damaging its former beauty, diversity and abundance. We must learn to live in harmony with the Earth, and to do this in community, helping each other to adapt to possibly hard times ahead.

Project Designed for Motueka's 6000 citizens. In trying to think ecologically, it also includes all living creatures in our bio-region. Humans are but one species; we have not treated other species with respect, although we are utterly dependent on the integrity of eco-systems for our existence.

Aim We work to create a thriving community, resilient to imminent changes, living in harmony with Nature in this bio-region, and helping each other. We are attentive to the great range of ecological issues: the importance of growing our food locally by organic methods which nurture the fertility of the soil; the need to make the shift away from private cars to walking, cycling and public transport and moving around less; the merits of energy-efficient housing and frugality with water and all other resources; the need to see what we call 'waste' as resources for further cycles; the need to strengthen the local economy.

How the Project Works The organisation of the project is highly informal. There are over 120 people who have indicated interest in the project and communicate by e-mail. The core activist group numbers about 20. These folk meet about every six weeks to plan action. Action takes place in working groups. These include groups on Food, Transport, Energy, Education (both public and child), Community Currency, Housing, Health and Sustainable Business. Not all groups are active simultaneously.

Transition Town Motueka communicates actively with the local district council, commenting on the long-term plan and on other policy items. A Mayor's Environmental Advisory Board is in the process of formation, drawing members from the Transition Towns of Motueka and neighbouring Mapua. Transition Town Motueka works with a national coalition to advocate at a national level on climate change policy. In addition, the group works actively with Transition Nelson, and communicates by

internet with the New Zealand-wide Transition Towns network.

The project received a small grant from the Motueka Community Board when it began in 2008. Ongoing work is funded by koha donated at meetings. Almost all work is done on a volunteer basis.

Outcomes

- The project produces a fortnightly radio show, The Transition Towns Show, on the local community access radio, Fresh FM.
- A local currency was launched mid-2009.
- Public seminars and workshops throughout the year.
- Three film series to raise awareness of transition-related issues.
- Working with the district council, a car-pooling system is developing.
- Enthusiasm about what people working in community can do to create an Earth-respecting lifestyle and help each other in changing and challenging circumstances.

Further Information

NZ Transition Towns: www.transitiontowns.org.nz
There is a Motueka page, and a page for each of the other Transition Towns.

M121 Tairua Ecogroup

Background This is a story about getting started on eco-issues in Tairua and Pauanui (Coromandel Peninsula). A group were prompted by a view of Creation as a gift with all creatures mutually interdependent with each other, and with the Earth; and with humankind as stewards of the Earth. Words of Anglican Social Justice Officer, Anthony Dancer, were also important: “Land, it makes us who we are. Land shapes us; it is a character in our story, the place in which our journey with God and others unfolds. It leaves its mark upon us as surely as we leave our mark upon it. Who uses it? Who has access to it? Who benefits from it? Who governs it? These are crucial questions we have to grapple with”.

Aim To develop a vision and strategy for responding to environmental issues in the region.

How the Group Works Group members were already involved in projects such as:

- Kauri 2000: a millennium and ongoing project for planting kauri trees – nearly 30,000 planted so far
- Local community board plantings and local parks involvement
- Coastal walkways: developing access/walking routes to reserves along the Eastern side of the Coromandel Peninsula
- Whenuakite Kiwi care group: protecting kiwi and their habitat from pest depredation on several thousand acres of conservation and farm land along the coast from Tairua to Hot Water Beach.
- Guardians of Paku Bay: concerned with issues facing Paku Bay, Tairua.

Questions asked by the group as they developed their work included :

- How do we live out a faith in Christ who transforms culture?
- What are the opportunities around us, and how can the church get involved in them?
- Who else can we involve – children? the community? schools? service groups?
- Can we develop and share a vision that inspires our venture?
- Are we praying about this to know what God wants? Do we ask God’s blessing on our venture?

Outcomes As the group grows in vision and strategy it seeks to work with God as co-partners in the redemption of all creation.

Further Information

Tairua/Pauanui LSM Group,
St Francis Anglican Church, Tairua
Sue Collins: temaru@slingshot.co.nz

M122 Guarding Paku Bay

Background In 2001 the Tairua community became aware of a project to construct a 250-berth marina in Paku Bay, which would adversely affect people’s amenity, birdlife, and visual enjoyment. A group of

Christians, community members and tangata whenua met to mobilise opposition, and continues to do so.

Aim To preserve and enhance Paku Bay for all people and all fauna. This is part of the Care for Creation component of the ACC Mission Statement.

How the Project Works

- Mobilising several hundred people to be knowledgeable and active in opposing the threat to the Bay
- Forming an Incorporated Society, having regular update meetings, building a data-base, regular newsletters, generating finance as required (\$300,000 so far) allotting tasks to subgroups, reading/analysing documentation.
- Engaging experts: legal, planning, coastal science, ornithology, navigation, landscape architect, engineer, noise.
- Guiding and encouraging members to make submissions on the developers' proposals and speak to them at hearings and in the Environment Court.

Outcomes

- Success so far, eight years on. No marina consents as yet, although we await a council hearing decision on the most recent (third) proposal.
- Huge learning by most involved about the Bay, its history and environmental significance; also the legal and hearing process.
- Guardians have achieved consents for two bird roosts in the Bay, which affects the proposal.
- A network of people who care for the Bay, and who are inwardly nurtured by it; many new friendships.
- Working with other groups and statutory bodies who have taken the same stance as Guardians
- A significant group of people have enhanced their skills and knowledge (communication, analysis, speaking in public, appreciation of history, harnessing heartfelt passion to reasoned argument).

Observations For those of us motivated by our faith, this is very much a prayer/action project, and a social justice issue. As the current Chair of Guardians, I bless the Bay each day, and then prepare my evidence for the court,

or ring our legal advisor, or help with a newsletter or fundraising event!

Further information

Bruce Gilberd
Tel. 07 864 8727
brucepat@xtra.co.nz

M123 GEOH Congregation

GEOH (God's Earth Our Home)

Background Geoh came about as a small group in the Pauatahanui parish sought new ways to relate our parish to the community. We evaluated various options and settled on Geoh as an innovative and contemporary way to link faith to environmental concerns in the community.

Project Designed for those in our church and our community who want to respond to environmental issues in both a spiritual and practical way.

Aim The aim of the Geoh congregation is for its members to grow in awareness of the spiritual and physical nature of environmental concerns and to respond in both spiritual and practical ways.

How the Project Works The Geoh congregation meets monthly for a simple meal and service on a Sunday evening. The service provides a time of education on some aspect of environmental concern and relates a relevant spiritual teaching. Initially we used the six-part study guide 'God's Earth Our Home' produced by the Dunedin Diocese. We have interspersed this with material from other sources or developed by members of the congregation. We have a time of prayer, both structured and informal. Also we have a time of quiet reflection, sometimes just silent and other times with a video such as 'Travelling Birds' playing with suitable reflective music.

Other activities of GEOH: Our parish has four churches and 12 congregations. When there is a fifth Sunday there is a 'whole parish' service which shows the wider parish something of how the environment and Christian faith inter-relate.

We have visited people in the Wellington area who are making a particular effort with regard to the

environment. This has included living sustainably and restoring the environment. We have supported other groups' environmental efforts by participating with them in tree-planting and clean-ups. At the last election we hosted a local candidates' meeting where candidates spoke and answered questions on their party's policies on environmental matters.

Outcomes I was part of the original group but was not an ardent environmentalist. I have now come to an awareness that God has created us to be 'Stewards of the Earth'. That means for me I have an obligation to live sustainably and to nurture rather than exploit the world that God has created. I am very aware of the ways I am still living contrary to that goal. But understanding the spiritual dimension motivates me to try to be a better steward than I am. This has deepened my awareness of God the creator and of Jesus' work of reconciliation.

The Geoh congregation in turn assists our wider parish and community. Bishop Richard Randerson spoke at a recent Geoh-hosted service about 'Environment, Social Justice and Spirituality'. Richard outlined two new challenges for Geoh: first, how to assist the diocese in its understanding of being 'Stewards of God's Earth'. Second, to relate issues of social justice such as the distribution of resources to environmental issues. These are two new challenges that I am excited about.

Further Information

Peter Drew
Tel. (04) 233 8087.
peter@drew.co.nz

M124 Carbon Fast

Background A carbon fast, to reduce the production of carbon, was seen as a way to empower our church members to engage with issues of environmental and ecological significance within a biblical framework.

Project Designed for all members of the congregation through a theological outline of why the environment matters. It may specifically focus on those wanting to make changes but do not know how to do so.

Aim To educate and facilitate an active approach to the environment along with deepening theological and

biblical awareness of how environmental concern fits into an overall missional strategy.

How the Project Works Each week, for seven weeks, a small group reflects on a different action idea. A handout and DVD inform about a variety of actions that could be taken, recognising that some ideas will work better for some individuals and groups than others.

Areas covered include:

1. Introduction: Caring for creation.
2. Cutting transport emissions
3. Swapping energy sources
4. Reduce, reuse, recycle.
5. Switch off to save
6. Eat sustainably
7. Speak up and advocate
8. Prayer and generosity towards those most effected.

In each area, information and ideas are presented so that people see that our carbon footprint is very much a matter of many small daily decisions about what we drink, eat, how we travel and what we wear. Simple steps like turning off appliances, buying food locally produced, making rather than buying gifts, are just some of many suggestions that can be part of a carbon fast. References and resources are included for each week's ideas so that groups can explore ideas at greater depth.

Outcomes A central outcome is a greater appreciation of the redemption of all creation. It also empowers people to take significant steps in their own life to address problems that often seem hopeless. A second important outcome is what reducing our carbon footprint might mean for many disadvantaged neighbours in the developing world. Our obsession with materialism is put under a gospel spotlight as we are encouraged to embrace simplicity – not by being totally ascetic in our approach to life but realising the ways materialism impacts not only on our own life but on the life of the wider world that Christ loved so much.

Further Information

TEAR Australia www.tear.org.au.
(document for free download)

Carlyn Chen: carlyn@tear.org.au

A DVD is available to supplement the ideas in the Carbon Fast document.

M125 Sunday worship service

Is Christianity green?

Background This project was suggested by a member of St Margaret's, Te Horo, where they had a similar "cafe church" with some success. At first it may seem a bit gimmicky, but perhaps a radical rearrangement of how we do church is not out of order. The "green matter" is certainly something that Christians should care about.

Project Designed for the whole community.

Aim To arouse interest in saving the world; to identify the faith of Christ with the Green movement; to do something a bit different to talk about in parish visiting.

How the Project Works

- We encouraged the local Manakau School to do a project on Saving the Planet. We made a couple of display models to hang up in the church, the ideas for which came from the kids themselves.
- The church pews were arranged to form squares with a table in the middle so that people could sit around for discussion.
- The service started with coffee/tea and cake, and people were encouraged to look at the displays and discuss informally. We also had some quiz material for any young people present.
- We showed a DVD about a tree growing to stimulate further discussion.
- This was followed by a more formal service with the singing of suitable hymns.

Outcomes Most of those who came were regulars, but two or three from the wider community came as well. At a time when the Church is struggling to show relevance, especially a tiny one like ours, I believe we did have some impact. The discussion was good and stimulating, and everyone took something away to heighten their awareness of the need to save the world.

Further Information

Selwyn Boorman Tel. (06) 362 6331
s.h.boorman@paradise.net.nz

M126 Archbishop's Eco-Resources

A brilliant starting point for any parish, school or community group, is Archbishop David Moxon's presentation to the Primates' Conference in Alexandria in 2009. Entitled *Global Warming and Climate Change*, it is one of the most informative, accessible and inspiring available, covering:

- Evidence and effects of global warming and climate change
- A biblical imperative
- The Christian moral climate
- What the Church can do.

The presentation can be found at: <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/acns/news.cfm/2009/2/4/ACNS4571>. (Click at reference in third paragraph). Alternatively it can be e-mailed on request from Richard Randerson: randersonjr@paradise.net.nz

Reflections and Quotes (from both the presentation and elsewhere)

We need to see the Earth not as our servant, but as part of our family. The Earth is the first revelation of God.

"Climate change reflects the denial of social justice. Climate change is occurring because people in rich countries are consuming resources and generating waste (particularly CO₂) at a rate that is overwhelming the processes that sustain the biosphere. We consume resources at a rate that would require 3-4 earths if everyone on earth consumed at the same rate. Jeremiah connected ecological collapse, injustice, and neglect of the moral order, with neglect of the true worship (*Jer.5:22-28*) Unrestrained consumption is inherently unjust and is not an option for disciples of Christ." *Global Warming* by Dr Graeme Finlay, Auckland University, 2008.

"If rich people take possession of something which was common property for their own use, and in such a way as to exclude others from using it, they steal common goods from others and therefore sin." Michael Northcott, *A Moral Climate: the ethics of global warming*, 2007

Christians have responsibility for justice to (1) all on earth now (2) future generations. Putting self-interest ahead of the common good will lead to the loss of both.

It is a spiritual journey to recover a sense of the Earth as sacred, and our moral responsibility to achieve justice and sustainability. The Church can provide moral leadership, and grass-roots action.

“Acting rightly with respect to the earth is a source of hope, for those who so act give expression to the Christian belief that it is God’s intention to redeem the earth, and her oppressed creatures, from sinful subjection to the oppressive domination of prideful wealth and imperial power. Such actions witness to the truth that the history of global warming has gradually unfolded; that those poor or voiceless human and non-human beings whose prospects climate change is threatening are neighbours through the climate system to the powerful and wealthy. And Christ’s command in these circumstances is as relevant as ever: ‘love your neighbour as yourself.’” Michael Northcott

Resources and Websites

- NZ Anglican social justice website
<http://www.justice.net.nz/>
- Church of England’s “Shrinking the footprint”
www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org
- An Inconvenient Truth
<http://www.climatecrisis.net/> (See “Take action” link)
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis Summary for Policy Makers
- Millennium Ecosystem Assessment,
<http://www.millenniumassessment.org>
- Christian World Service (NZ) has an excellent range of material for worship, children and local action
www.cws.org.nz
- Personal/household lifestyle
www.sustainability.govt.nz
- Church lifestyle www.ecocongregation.org