



## Church of Scotland General Assembly 2009

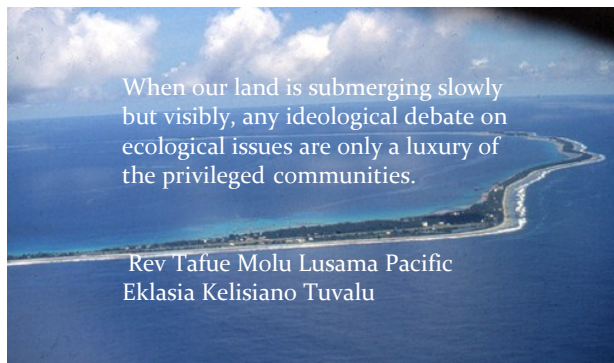
### HOW TO MEASURE YOUR CHURCH'S CARBON FOOTPRINT

The purpose of this leaflet is to help you understand the background to the General Assembly deliverance on carbon footprinting; and to explain in three easy steps how you can start to measure and manage your church's carbon footprint.

#### Why climate change is important to the Church

The report of the Church and Society Council to the General Assembly 2009 identified climate change as one of the most important challenges facing people around the world.

*“The Church of Scotland is concerned that climate change poses a serious and immediate threat to people everywhere, particularly to the poor of the earth; and that climate change represents a failure in our stewardship of God’s creation. We accept the need to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases urgently to avoid dangerous and irreversible climate change; and to promote a more equitable and sustainable use of energy.”*



#### We can show leadership by cutting our own carbon footprint



The deliverance agreed by the General Assembly 2009 is to: *Instruct Presbyteries, in association with the Church and Society Council, to produce a plan for each congregation in their bounds, setting out how they will measure energy consumption in their church buildings, ascertain their carbon footprint and achieve a year-on-year reduction of 5% of their carbon footprint using the Eco-Congregation Scotland footprint module; and instruct the Church and Society Council, in consultation with the General Trustees, to report to the General Assembly of 2010 on the implementation of this instruction.*

#### Step one : monitor your energy use

How much energy did you use in your church buildings in 2008?

From your church fuel bills for 2008:

- How many units of electricity (kilowatt hours) did you use?
- If you have gas, how many cubic metres of gas did you use?
- If you use heating oil, how many litres of oil ?

## Step two: work out the footprint of your church buildings

When you have gathered the information above from your fuel bills, use the calculator below to work out the footprint of your church buildings.

<b>Carbon Calculator</b>			
	<b>Enter energy used...</b>	<b>...multiplied by...</b>	<b>to give ...kgs of CO2</b>
Gas: (Cubic metres)		2.009	0
... or kilowatt hours (kWh)		0.185	0
Oil: (Litres)		3.179	0
Electricity (kWh)		0.537	0
<b>Total CO2 emissions from buildings (kilograms)</b>			<b>0</b>
<b>Total CO2 emissions from buildings (tonnes)</b>			<b>0.00</b>

*Note: this table is available as a word document on the Church of Scotland website. Double click on the table to show a spreadsheet that will do the calculation for you. To download go to:*

[www.churchofscotland.org.uk/councils/churchsociety/downloads/csmeasurefootprint.doc](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/councils/churchsociety/downloads/csmeasurefootprint.doc)

## Step three: Make a commitment to reduce this total by 5% a year

Can you make a commitment as a congregation to reduce your carbon footprint by at least 5% this year and each year in the future through better energy management? If you make this commitment advice and support is at hand: see Eco-congregation Module 13 for further details.

There are a number of sources of advice to help you:

- The Energy Savings Trust can offer advice and support on reducing your energy use; they may be able to audit your church and help with funding.  
[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland)
- The General Trustees website contains details of the “Better Heating Scheme” and other advice on energy management.  
[www.churchofscotland.org.uk/councils/gentrustees/gthelp.htm](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/councils/gentrustees/gthelp.htm)
- The Church and Society Council web pages on climate change give you a range of reports and links on climate change.  
[www.churchofscotland.org.uk/councils/churchsociety/csclimate.htm](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/councils/churchsociety/csclimate.htm)

Margaret Warnock  
Co-ordinator Eco-Congregation Scotland  
PO Box 23, Callander, FK17 8WR  
Telephone Number: 01877 330182  
Email: [margaret@ecocongregation.org.uk](mailto:margaret@ecocongregation.org.uk)  
Website: [www.ecocongregation.org.uk/scotland](http://www.ecocongregation.org.uk/scotland)  
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Adrian Shaw,  
Climate Change Project Officer  
Church of Scotland  
121 George Street, Edinburgh  
Tel: 0131 225 5722  
e-mail: [ashaw@cofscotland.org.uk](mailto:ashaw@cofscotland.org.uk)