



THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND: RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Following the debate on climate change at the General Assembly 2007 the Kirk has established a two year project called *Responding to Climate Change*. Welcoming the project appointment the Convener of the Church and Society Council, Morag Mylne said:

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.

The project will cover three main areas.

- First, to work with the Councils of the Church to help them identify and address the impacts of climate change. This could include both practical issues such as reducing the carbon footprint of the church's own estate; raising awareness of Ministers, Presbyteries and staff; and working with partners in countries overseas through the World Mission Council to highlight the global consequences of our emissions.
- Second, to support Eco-Congregations and help the Programme respond effectively to climate change. The Eco-Congregations Programme now includes over 170 congregations across Scotland, both Church of Scotland and other denominations. Eco-congregations now form one of the largest networks of voluntary environmental groups in Scotland.
- Third, to contribute to the wider debate in Scotland, for example through the *Stop Climate Chaos* coalition. The Church welcomes the Scottish Climate Change Bill and will participate in the national debate to ensure that the commitment to an 80% reduction in greenhouse gases is taken forward across Scotland.

The Project Officer is located in the Church and Society Council but is jointly supported by the World Mission Council and Mission and Discipleship Council.

For further information please contact the Project Officer, Adrian Shaw.

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