Eco Church - Going for Bronze Action Plan 2026.

Introduction

The following is the Action Plan approved by St Laurence Blackmore PCC on 25 March 2026.

Background

St Laurence Blackmore PCC registered with A Rocha's Eco Church programme in 2024. As of December 2025, it was one of 123 churches in the Chelmsford Diocese aiming for a Bronze Award (with 143 others having achieved Gold, Silver or Bronze).

To gain a Bronze Award it is necessary to complete the survey and undertake projects across five themes gaining sufficient points in each category. Points make prizes! We have completed the whole survey based on our current status and have identified potential new projects. Our progress is shown below.

Progress towards Eco Church Award		
Category	**Current status**	**Plan for 2026**
Buildings & Energy	Bronze Award achieved (Score 110)	-
Worship & Teaching	Bronze Award achieved (Score: 85)	-
Land & Nature	Working towards the Bronze Award (Score 100: Required 115)	Creation of a wildflower area, log pile, nature trail and interpretive signs already identified in approved Churchyard Management Plan (November 2025)
Community & Global Engagement	Working towards the Bronze Award (Score 88: Required 120)	Selecting and pursuing projects to gain award (see below)
Lifestyle	Working towards the Bronze Award (Score 22: Required 55)	Selecting and pursuing projects to gain award (see below)

Action Plan

	Category	Commitment to Action	Specific Tasks	Who by	Report to PCC	Target completion
-	Worship & Teaching	**No new actions in 2026.**				
-	Land & Nature	**Churchyard Management Plan.** Per Churchyard-Management-Plan-Published-Feb-2026.pdf	*Approved PCC, Nov 2025*. Of the 21 actions the following to complete: *Wildflower Area (Q4a), Nature Trail (Q14c), Interpretive material (Q14a), Log Pile (Q3h).	Eco Church Group – Sean / *Elaine	-	June 2026
-	Buildings & Energy	**Carbon Footprint.** Our Eco Church champion has the confidence and knowledge to carry out their role and/or has access to appropriate training or support (e.g. Carbon Literacy training). (Q8: 20)	*At the request of PCC, Oct. 2024:* Eco Church Lead to attend Chelmsford Diocese Carbon Literacy Course and gain certificate.	Eco Church lead – Andrew	-	March 2026
1	Lifestyle	**Carbon Footprint.** Our church promotes auditing of individual and household carbon footprints (e.g. by using Climate Stewards, Giki, Take the Jump, the WWF Footprint Calculator, or other calculators). (Q5: 7)	*At the request of some members of PCC in January 2025 who sought more information when completing Lifestyle survey:* 1. Hold a training session open to all 2. Promote carbon footprint across media.	Eco Church Group - Andrew	Not necessary to produce separate report	September 2026
2	Lifestyle	**Carbon Footprint.** Our church recognises that energy use for heating and lighting is one of the three biggest contributors to carbon emissions in the UK and promotes … the following: a. Ways in which individuals and households can reduce consumption	Both promoted through 1. conversations 2. media – Weekly Notice Sheet, website, Facebook	Eco Church Group – Andrew, John	Not necessary to produce separate report	September 2026

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		(and increase energy efficiency) (Q6: 10) **b.** Leading by example the PCC will replace gas heaters in church, reducing dependency on fossil fuels and its carbon footprint.				
3	Community & Global Engagement	**Ethical Finance.** Our church recognises that choices about how we use/steward our church's finances - including banking, pensions and the role of divestment - have a significant impact on climate and climate justice. (Q8b, Q8c: 10)	1. We will review where the PCC places its money to ensure it Banks with providers with robust climate- and nature-friendly policies; and does not invest in funds with an interest in fossil fuels. 2. Recommend to PCC switching or reinvesting money	Eco Church Group - Andrew	27 May 2026	December 2026
4	Lifestyle	**Ethical Finance.** Our church recognises that personal choices about how we use our money - including banking, pensions, and investing - have a significant impact on climate and nature. Our church promotes banking with providers having robust policies on climate and nature protection and not funding the fossil fuel industry. (Q9a: 3)	Contingent on (3) above, we will promote bank.green through Weekly Notice Sheet, social media etc and encourage individuals to consider choices.	Eco Church Group - Andrew	27 May 2026	December 2026
5	Community & Global Engagement	**Commitment**. Our church recognises the impact of the climate and nature crises and has a plan or strategy to take action. (Q1: 30)	We will produce an Environmental Policy for approval and publication using St Mary's, West Bergholt as a template.	Eco Church Group - Andrew	27 May 2026	May 2026
6	Lifestyle	**Commitment:** Our church has a strategy or plan to promote ethical and environmentally	-ditto-	-ditto-	-ditto-	-ditto-

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		aware consumption patterns by individuals and households. (Q1: 15)				
7	Community & Global Engagement	**Communication:** Our church communicates the work we do, including our participation in Eco Church, to share ideas, raise awareness and encourage others to engage on public noticeboards (physical or digital) and on social media (Q15: 8) Our church responds to the impact of the climate and nature crises and engages with environmental and social justice issues [by] engaging with the community beyond the church (Q2: 10)	To produce a communication plan and be coordinated in the way climate change and biodiversity themes are presented.	Eco Church Group	22 July 2026	September 2026
8	Lifestyle	**Communication:** Information and advice about how individuals and households can respond to the climate and nature crises are shared widely across our church's communication channels (e.g. newsletters, social media, website). (Q3:7)	-ditto-	-ditto-	-ditto-	-ditto-