

CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF GHANA AND A ROCHA GHANA

ECO CHURCH INCEPTION WORKSHOP CONCEPT

Your holy cities have become a wilderness. Zion has become a wasteland and Jerusalem a desolation.

Our holy and beautiful temple, where our fathers praised You, has been burned with fire, and all our lovely parks and gardens in ruins - Isaiah 64:10-11

The destruction of the Earth's ecosystem has become a primary concern to people around the globe. Temperatures are rising, the weather is becoming more extreme and less predictable. Here in Ghana, a close reflection of the environmental facts reveals that almost every dimension of God's creation is being ruined. - the forest, water resources, wildlife, climatic patterns, sanitation, etc. These problems converge and cause greater hardship for people. They perpetuate poverty, hunger, unrest, diseases, and even death. The bible speaks about this kind of decay in Romans 8:22, *"For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now"*. This situation is now very urgent if not critical. If Christ's creation is groaning, then something must be done about it.

The Eco Church programme is a reward scheme designed to assist churches that want to demonstrate their care for God's creation within their worship, and service to the communities around them.

The Church performs simple environmental tasks which earn them points for rewards. These tasks are measured by an environmental assessment tool designed along the areas of church development. E.g. Faith Consistent Use of Asset, Education, Wisdom, Lifestyle, Media and Advocacy, Partnership, Celebration.

This program is designed to guide Churches and their members to become eco-friendly. Being Eco-friendly is being a friend to the environment and employing innovative ways in which one can reduce our carbon footprint and help save the environment. By acting on the simple tasks, the Church reduces its carbon footprint and also saves a lot of money.

The actions taken will count towards a reward scheme in three levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold.

The vision is for churches of all denominations to care for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbors and following God faithfully.

Goal

- To equip churches to care for God's creation from within their wholistic ministry

Objectives

- To guide the Church to opt for better ecological practices on their compounds through education and activities
- Educate members to be stewards God's creation
- To encourage churches to take environmental actions toward a prestigious award

Churches who would like to join Eco Church programm would:

1. Fill an online registration form detailing the location and contacts of the church
2. Nominate 2 persons to represent the church
3. Be trained on the Eco Church Tool Kit
4. Undertake baseline assessment
5. Complete the score sheets based on the indicators set and the tasks done

Implementation Plan

- Collaborate with Christian Council Ghana (CCG) and other Key Pentecostal Churches like the Church of Pentecost etc.
- There would be an inception meeting to officially announce the program and develop the indicators for the assessment.
- Develop Eco Church Brochure and other paraphernalia for education and sensitization
- The program will be piloted among 10 members of the CCG and other selected churches (Legon Interdenominational Church, COP Madina) etc
- Train representatives of selected churches
- Local congregation visitation for awareness and education-done by the trained reps
- Beginning of Assessment
- Issue awards to churches who complete task
- Monitoring and Evaluation

Awards

The actions taken will count towards a prestigious Eco Church Award at Bronze, Silver, or Gold levels. Each level has its own sets of indicators for assessment.

Level 1- Bronze Award:

Five (5) Thematic Areas e.g., Faith Consistent Use of Asset, Education, Wisdom, Lifestyle, Celebration. Each theme has 5 indicators for assessment. Together, there will be indicators to be completed in order to qualify for a bronze award. This award will be given to the church in a form of a plaque or a Participation certificate.

Level 2: Silver Award:

Six (6) Thematic Areas e.g., Faith Consistent Use of Asset, Education, Wisdom, Lifestyle, Celebration, Media, and Advocacy. Each thematic area will have 8 sets of indicators for assessment. There will therefore be 48 indicators for assessment. 25 of the indicators are picked from level 1 i.e., bronze indicators

Level 3: Gold Award

Seven (7) Thematic Area e.g., Faith Consistent Use of Asset, Education, Wisdom, Lifestyle, Media and Advocacy, Partnership, Celebration. Each thematic area will have 10 sets of indicators for assessment. There will be therefore 70 indicators for assessment.

Sample of Indicators

LEVEL 1: BRONZE

NO.	Theme: FAITH CONSISTENT USE OF ASSET	YES	NO	Points	Remarks
1.	Appointed 1 person or group to monitor the energy use observing fluctuation in utility tariffs (electricity and water)				
2.	Consider gadgets with good electrical ratings (3, 4, 5 star) when purchasing equipment				
3.	Consider grassing portions of the compound to create an eco-friendly surrounding				
	Theme: EDUCATION				
1.	Church has study materials on God's creation and related issues				
2.	Dedicated Sunday to teach and learn on issues from the Pulpit				
3.	Environmental posters and signs are placed in the Church compound to encourage the consciousness of members.				
	Theme: LIFESTYLE				
1.	Traditions of Simple Living - encourage members to live more simply and in harmony with the environment.				
2.	Church shows God's love by planting flowers and trees on church compound to celebrate members				
3.	Church practice waste separation: plastics bottles and sachets from other waste				

ECO CHURCH WORKSHOP OUTLINE

Preparation Before Workshop

We would like to prepare participants before they attend the workshop by introducing them to the Eco Church concept for them to know the expectation and deliverables of the workshop.

- Get Names and contacts of Participants of the Workshop for registration
- Schedule an online call to discuss the modalities of the workshop with them

Follow up Action after Workshop

- A 3- or 5-member working group created to consolidate the indicators and finetune to be used as a working document? Indicate when they can meet to complete the work
- Print out the Eco Church handbook shared with umbrella churches to be shared with local churches

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Rewards: Who authorizes the rewards, ARG Or CCG or other

How should the reward be organised?