**Northampton District Eco-Summit 8th May 2024 Notes**

The Northampton District held its third Eco-Summit on Zoom. The purpose of these events was to:

·        Encourage dialogue between Circuits and Churches of the District on Net-Zero and care for our planet matters.

·        For the District to identify ways it can support the Circuits and Churches on the above matter

·        To share new developments around resources for care for our creation

A reminder that all the notes from the February 2024 meeting can be found Welcome and notes can be found [here](https://www.northamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk/resources/eco-district/eco-summit.html)

Howard Warrener, the District’s Carbon reduction advocate, shared his experiences from serving in the role for the past ten years. Howard shared some of the findings that can be read in the recent Synod paperwork. This can be found [here](https://www.northamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk/lib/carbon-reduction-spring-2024-F844220.pdf).

Some important highlights included

* The property returns data is accessible to the District, so they must be filled out as accurately as possible. It was noticed that sometimes, those who attended these eco-summits might not complete the returns.
* Renewable energy contracts. Who are churches with, and are the providers truly offering a renewable energy source? The links section below might be helpful.

The District would like to extend their gratitude for Howard and his work.

Howard can be contacted to help- howard\_warrener@hotmail.com

In the meeting on the 8th of May 2024, the participants shared some memorable progressions since the February meeting. The highlights consist of the following.

* Wesley Memorial has received grant support to install LED lighting
* Milton Keynes held a learning event attended well by 8/9 Methodist Churches. The warmly received event has stirred up further work for regular gatherings. There are lots more to come.
* Bishop Street Methodist Church has received its bronze eco church award
* Four churches in the Leicester West Circuit have received their bronze eco-church awards, and some are so close to their silver.
* The encouragement is to send any eco-church awards to [matt.forsyth@northampton](mailto:matt.forsyth@northampton) methodistdistrict.org.uk
* The idea is to share and celebrate the Churches awarded an eco church award at Synod.
* Northampton Methodist Church are looking at energy audits for their buildings.
* Stories shared from the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit—what heat retention can be made both in your church building and your church. The helpful challenge is that our Church buildings might inspire action in members' and visitors' homes/ lives.

**Action for Hope Conversation**

Since the February meeting, the Methodist Council has received a further Action For Hope paper. This can be found [here](https://d1yuutt686hfi0.cloudfront.net/media/documents/counc_MC24-38_Action_for_Hope_JB_JRH_April_2024.pdf). This work will go to the Methodist Conference.

**Some notable highlights:**

* The District is ensuring that the criteria are met so that funds can be released if the conference approves the direction of travel
* The work on the grant ‘mechanism’ will be in place for the new connextional year
* The criteria for the churches remain the same as those in the paper presented to the Council in January 2024.

**The work of the Eco-Summit working stream**

The Mission Team Leader will encourage gathering a smaller working stream to update policy and other critical pieces of strategic thinking for the District. More information to be given to those who have expressed an interest. This is set to meet on the 16th of May, 2024.

If you still have not raised an interest, please get in touch with Matt on matt.forsyth@northamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk

**Date for the next meeting**

* Tuesday 29th October, 7:30pm (Note the change in date)

**Links for consideration**

* [Wolverton Community Energy |](https://wolvertoncommunityenergy.uk/)
* [Carbon footprint calculator (carbonindependent.org)](https://carbonindependent.org/)