

CHECKLIST IN ORDER TO BECOME A GREEN CHURCH

As a Green Church you are able to administer God's creation with thankfulness, respect and care. At the same time greater consideration for what you consume and less strain on the environment can mean that you save both money and resources. As a Green Church you are part of a network of churches, parishes and church organisation in Denmark which have been registered as Green Churches. It is free to be a Green Church.

HOW TO BECOME A GREEN CHURCH

Go through this list and the included guide with the parish church council and preferably with those employed in the church. You can become a Green Church when you:

- 1). Fulfill at least 25 of the in total 48 requirements (there should be at least two crosses in each category).
- 2). Have appointed a green committee preferably composed of people from the parish council, church employees and users of the church who have, for example, relevant expertise. One of the committee members has been appointed as the contact person to the Green Church.

The churches in Denmark are very different, and none will probably find all the 48 points on the checklist relevant or possible. But we hope you will find the list gives inspiration and is relevant to work with.

ENROLMENT

When you have complied with the criteria you send a mail to gronkirke@gronkirke.dk and tell of your work and attach the completed checklist. We should also have information about who your contact person is (mail address, phone number.). Subsequently you will be registered as Green Church. We register you on www.gronkirke.dk and will send you a Green Church placard. Various materials will also be sent, both printed and electronic, which can help you to show and communicate that you are a Green Church.

Naturally you are always welcome to contact us if you need help in order to fill in the check list.

In the future, every year in December you will be sent the Green Church- placard for the following year. If you still meet the requirements to be a Green Church you can hang the new placard up.

WHEN YOU HAVE BECOME A GREEN CHURCH

The Green Church newsletter gives inspiration and new ideas to work with as a Green Church. Sign up for the newsletter and keep up with us on www.gronkirke.dk and www.facebook.com/Gronkirke. If you have good stories or ideas from your work as a Green Church we would very much like to hear about them.

Thank you for joining us.

With kind regards: Green Church-Group. The Danish Churches Committee.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

To be a Green Church sets its mark on the whole life of the church and together with their creative work attitude the churches have a special language and a special approach to nature and the management of the work of creation. It is not about being moralistic but about putting into words joy and gratitude and to motivate responsibility for the earth - as a gift and a mission.

1. We hold a theme service once a year with the creation, climate, environment, nature and/or justice as themes.

2. We include creation, climate, environment, nature and/or justice in the church services liturgy throughout the whole year where it is natural (for example the sermon, hymns, prayers).

3. We mark Creationtide each year- generally together with others.

4. We integrate climate, environment, nature and justice in the teaching of the church.

5. We hold collections in the church to support church climate and environmental projects in the poorest countries in the world and/or in threatened areas.

6. We arrange or take part in theme evenings, study groups, outings or similar events about the creation, climate, environment, nature and/or justice.

7. We arrange jumble sales, swop markets, and/or take part in collections for the benefit of climate-and environmental projects in the poorest countries and/ or in threatened areas of the world.

THE CHURCH'S INFORMATION AND THE ESTABLISHING OF THE GREEN WORK

It is important that the work with the Green Church is visible and is deeply rooted in the daily life of the church. The work of being a Green Church is not only for those who are specially interested but also for members of the church council, those employed in the church, the parishioners, and it would be best if all those who use the church be included in the work. What happens in the church must also be inspired by or inspires the congregation and the local community.

8. We promote information about the creation, climate, environment and justice in the church magazine, on the church's home page, via the social media and/or other information canals.

9. We tell that we are a green church by hanging up a Green Church poster and by writing about it in the church magazine, on the church's home page, on social media and other of the church's information canals.

10. We have compiled a plan of action for our work as a Green Church and go through it at least once a year.

11. We have Green Church as a fixed point on the parish church council's agenda or at least 1-2 times a year.

12. We attempt to cooperate with local firms, council units, other churches and organizations in our climate and environmental work.

THE CHURCH'S PURCHASES

Being a Green Church involves being positive and taking an initiative which has a meaning for the church's green footprint. The church's purchasing of goods and services can have a great climate and environmental effect. Purchases include all the products and goods the church buys including food, paper, flowers, computers, tools, machines, and electricity, fuel etc. It is a good idea to check all the church's purchases for each area of work and consider if they can be made in a more climate and

environmentally friendly way. With permanent and/or large deliveries it is always a good idea to obtain offers from several suppliers before deciding what to buy. Preferably demand products which have a low influence on the climate and environment even though the companies do not immediately offer them. This shows an interest for such products which can influence the dealers and producers.

13. We limit the church's purchases and, when possible, buy second hand things.

14. We buy groceries which have the least possible climate and environmental effect (ecologic, Fairtrade-brands, local and seasonal).

15. We buy, as far as possible, environmental labelled products for cleaning, maintenance, office and outdoor areas.

16. We use, as far as possible, environmental certified ecological and/or Fairtrade-suppliers of goods and services.

17. For larger purchases, renovation and building projects we buy environmental certified products and materials.

18. We limit the use of chemicals in cleaning, maintenance and outdoor areas.

19. We use rechargeable batteries where we can.

20. The church changes, as far as possible, to inform electronically and preferably receive newspapers, magazines and publications electronically.

THE CHURCH'S USE OF ENERGY

The church's use of energy - especially heating - is often an expensive item on the budget. A lot of CO2 and money can often be saved here. In order to save energy an inspection of products used can be involved (heat sources, taps, windows etc.), but often a lot can be saved by being aware of consumption and other everyday habits. It is always a good idea to get professional help.

21. We have had an energy economical check of the church's buildings made (church, parish community center, rectory etc.), and follow their instructions as well as we can.

22. We read our meters for water, electricity, heating and gas at suitable intervals, e.g. once a month.

23. We give priority to the low use of energy and good fuel economy when buying, for example, freezers, washing-and washing up machines, pc's and machines for the cemetery.

24. We buy certified climate friendly current.

25. We use LED bulbs where it is possible.

26. We turn out the lights in rooms which are not in use and/or have installed (light) sensors and timers.

27. We turn off computers and other office machines when they are not in use by using, for example, an electricity saving power strip.

28. We heat with heating which is produced in the best possible environmental and climate friendly way.

29. We lower the temperature when there are no people in the church, parish hall/parish community center and in the office.

30. We limit the use of water.

31. We fill the washing machine up before starting it.

THE CHURCH'S TRANSPORT AND OUTDOOR AREAS

The use of energy in connection with transport in private cars, lorries and aeroplanes is a great

contribution to the global discharge of CO2 into the atmosphere.

Everyone can contribute to reduce this by choosing forms of transportation which put less strain on the climate and environment. Many churches have outdoor areas - both large and small - which can be used for green purposes. Not much space is needed to plant trees, fruit bushes, put up bird boxes or beehives. There's room for a lot of imagination.

- 32. We ensure parking for cycles near the church or the cemetery.
- 33. We use cycles, buses, trains and pool-drive more, and use cars and air travel less in connection with church services, congregation outings, meetings and official journeys.
- 34. We pay CO2-compensation in connection with, for example, air travel
- 35. We have purchased one or more cycles for the church, for example carrier cycles for local transport for church employees and volunteers.
- 36. We hold some of our meetings and courses as video conferences, telephone meetings, via Skype or similar services.
- 37. We implement environmentally friendly and ecological activities and improvements in the outdoor areas of the church and cemetery.
- 38. We establish places for wild animals and plants in the outdoor areas of the church.
- 39. We ensure the ecological running of the church's agricultural land and woodland as much as possible.

THE CHURCH'S WASTE

Waste is not always waste but a resource which can be used somewhere else. Cardboard, paper, glass, milk cartons and so forth can be used in the church activities for children. Paper which is only printed on one side can be used as notepaper. Others can maybe reuse the waste one can't reuse personally. The church should actively support the municipalities waste-and compost systems.

- 40. We attempt to repair our things and hand over what we can't use for recycling.
- 41. We reduce the amount of food we waste.
- 42. We use proper tableware instead of disposable tableware. If we buy disposable tableware as far as possible it should be made of biodegradable material.
- 43. We print and copy on both sides of the sheet of paper preferably. We use leftover paper and sort out what we don't use.
- 44. We compost waste in a responsible way; either on our own land or on approved compost sites.
- 45. We deliver cardboard, paper, glass and metal for reuse.
- 46. We deliver electric waste to approved recipients or, where possible, to a recycling scheme.
- 47. We deliver batteries, PVC-plastic, chemical waste, electric light bulbs, also toner and printer cartridges to approved recipients.
- 48. We encourage reuse and the collection of, for example, clothes, candle stumps, mobile phones, spectacles.

THE CHURCH'S OWN INITIATIVES

There can be many green initiatives which are not covered in the categories and points of this checklist. They count too! Add your own ideas and hopes here.

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TO GO MORE THOROUGHLY INTO THE CHECKLISTS POINTS: SEE THE GUIDE ON WWW.GRONKIRKE.DK FOR FURTHER INSPIRATION: SE WWW.GRONKIRKE.DK/TIPS-OG-IDEER