

St Andrew's Eco-Congregation Questionnaire

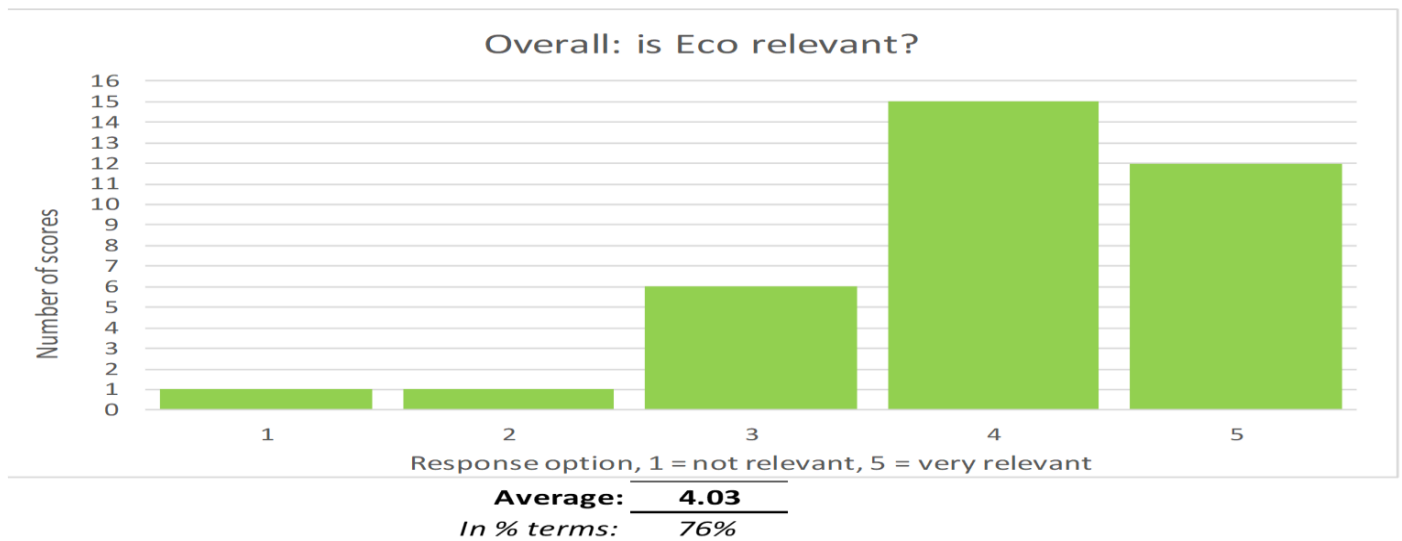
Summary Results

Thank you to the 35 of you who responded and clearly took time to consider not only what numbers to select but added such a wide cross-section of comments. The Vestry and Eco sub-committee view the rate and range of responses as a very valuable success, that helps inform our decision making enormously. Thank you.

We do not set out every answer below but the charts shown have been generated using every single response and are thus a true democratic reflection of our collective thinking. With the comments, we seek to summarise in a way that also reflects the diversity of views in a manner commensurate with everyone's input across the whole spectrum.

Responses to the first question are illustrated graphically below, whereby the chart's columns reflect the number of responses applied to each of: 1 for "not at all relevant" up to 5 for "extremely relevant".

To what extent do you consider ecological issues relevant to St Andrew's?



The mathematical average of 4.03 reflects everyone's answer collectively; for those that are comfortable thinking in percentage terms, this equates to 76% on a scale of 0% to 100%.

The 2nd question asked to what extent we consider we have taken appropriate action over ecological issues and scored an average of 3.77 or 69%, where 1 was "not nearly enough" and 5 was "more than enough"; interestingly, this question sparked the greatest number of "comments", grouped by subject matter as follows:-

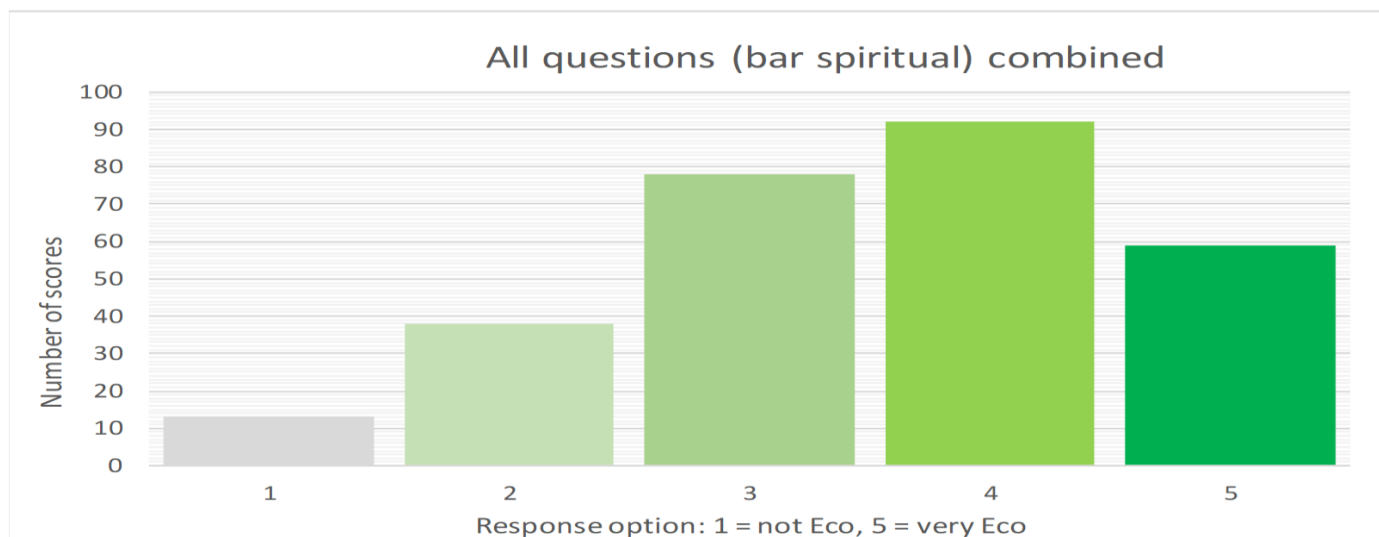
- 9 comments on Heating/Utilities, suggesting avoidance of fossil fuel, use of solar panels and/or heat pumps and more LEDs & insulation;
- 7 comments on General Supplies being sustainably & ethically sourced, from recycled materials, free of plastic/palm oil, where possible;
- 5 comments on reduction of Printed Paper and replacement with electronic screens, e-mail etc;
- 4 comments on minimising Travel, sharing cars, installing electric car charge point(s), meeting via Zoom.
- There is general recognition that much is done well already and that one can not totally avoid some non-sustainable practices; however, continuing to move in an Eco direction is to be encouraged.

The 3rd question asked, in terms of Spiritual Matters, to what extent we would like our clergy team to alter our ecological consideration. There is an element of ambiguity here as those wanting change could be seeking "more eco input" and others seeking "less". However, with an average score of 2.40 or 35%, with 1 as "no change" and 5 as "much change", this response is interpreted as "modest change is desirable". The 7 comments received give a guide as to the intended direction. They range from one comment advising "caution whilst taking account of the views of everyone" (which this report seeks to do!), through advising "constant discussion as there is a long way to go", to 5 comments suggesting "outdoor services", "upfront prayers", "Tenants of the King study course", "frequent reminders to consider our part in the created world", and a church that "should be the most eco-active of any institution".

There followed 6 questions relating to Individual Lifestyles, whose scores were as follows:-

“How relevant is teaching within St Andrew’s to our own lives?”	Average: 3.54 or 64%
“How relevant is diet to an Eco lifestyle?”	Average: 3.43 or 61%
“How much do you consider food miles?”	Average: 3.66 or 66.4%
“How much do you seek out sustainability certificates?”	Average: 3.63 or 65.7%
“How much do you consider the impact of Travel?”	Average: 3.49 or 62%
“How much do you recycle?”	Average: 4.17 or 79%

The chart below portrays all answers added together, across a spectrum between 1 as ‘not eco’ and 5 as ‘very’:-



Average: 3.52
In % terms: 63%

Finally, there were three opportunities to add comments of one’s own:-

First, “what help/advice would you like on recycling/upcycling/disposing of surplus/discarded items?”

- 12 comments ranged from “none, thank you”, through to “enough is being done already”.
- 23 comments requesting information on the website, via a forum, with a directory, a stall when possible and/or collection points, for items including computers, garden waste/compost, food waste, shoes, packaging, furniture, electrical goods & disposable mugs.

Second, “would you welcome advice on making changes to lifestyle issues, if so, what?”

- 16 declined or were not sure;
- 18 replied in the positive, covering areas including “more guidance & information on the website or in a newsletter”, how to fix broken items, how to discuss & share ideas, sourcing sustainable foods, making modest changes that combine to big effects.

Third, “what activities would be of interest, such as eco-fairs, walking, gardening, up-cycling, shared travel, joint buying?”

- 30% declined or were not sure; 70% replied in the affirmative, with:-
- joint buying mentioned by 6, walking groups by 5, gardening and up-cycling by 3, eco-fairs by 2 and shared travel by 1.

In summary, it is clear that St Andrew’s is an ecologically minded church, that has made much progress to date whilst recognising that more can be done, both collectively and individually in future. More information, guidance and advice will be offered but not forced upon us. Ultimately, it is up to each of us to decide to what extent we should move in a direction of “thinking about our neighbours, not only those today but also those tomorrow.”

From your Eco-Congregation sub-committee. (A full 15 page report of all the results is available on request.)