37. Action for Hope/Net Zero

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Resolutions	37/1. The Conference receives the Report. 37/2. The Conference, with regret, agrees to the refocusing of the Net Zero work as an ongoing carbon reduction plan with the removal of the aspirational target of 2030.

Introduction

The Conference wholeheartedly agrees and affirms that 'the global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation and a fundamental injustice'. – The Methodist Conference 2021[1]

The Methodist Conference in 2021 established an aspirational target to become a net zero Church by 2030, and the Action for Hope Faith Plan[2] was created to identify key areas of activity and the engagement required by all parts of the Connexion. The Faith Plan focused largely on actions which were thought to be achievable by the whole Church, the Connexional Team and properties under the control of the Council. Whilst much was to be measured (particularly the work of the Team) in this regard, the Methodist Council took the decision for there not be mandatory measurement of carbon output across the whole Connexion as this was considered to be too arduous for all.

Since the creation of the plan the use of the term 'net-zero' within the aspiration has itself been under scrutiny as truly to achieve that would require the Church to increase its commitments to include Scope 3 (these emissions encompass all indirect emissions, including those not directly funded by the Church, such as member travel and procurement) as well as Scope 1 (direct emissions from owned or controlled sources) and Scope 2 (emissions from purchased energy).

Further questions have arisen in our ability to evidence how the work is progressing as it has always been felt that mandating measuring of emissions from all churches and Circuits was too arduous a task for the whole Church.

1 Conference 2021 Agenda Volume 1
2 https://media.methodist.org.uk/media/documents/conf-22-pc-17-methodist-council-part-2_vnfx3t3.pdf

Progress within what can be measured has been made towards this aspirational target, as will be discussed below, but this progress is not occurring at the pace required to reach net zero by 2030 (as we have defined it), and is not expressed uniformly across the Connexion.

Significant actions have been taken in recent years which would not have occurred without the target being set, and these are to be celebrated. Some churches, Circuits and Districts, as well as the Connexional Team, have made considerable progress as a result of concerted efforts, and these are to be commended.

The Council, through the work of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee, commissioned an internal audit review to offer a view on how both the Action for Hope plan and the aspirational target were progressing. That review offered back the stark conclusion that unless mandatory measurement of all emission throughout the whole Connexion as well as the inclusion of Scope 3 emissions occurred there was no reasonable way that the 2030 target could be met (or even measured).

With four years until the target point there remains much of the Church where a robust strategy for net zero does not exist. It is also the case that where detailed planning has taken place in a District a net zero date beyond 2030 has been found to be practical. A baseline does not exist for the emissions of the whole Church, and no system of emissions measurement is in place. The decision not to implement such a system was taken by the Connexional Council, noting the challenge this additional burden would place on all parts of the Connexion. Beyond this there is currently no co-ordinated and strategic approach to the use of buildings. While this is being discussed elsewhere on the Conference Agenda and is likely to support churches, Circuits and Districts in the coming years, it will not be in time to support the scale of work which would be required for net zero 2030.[3]

The Council therefore agreed that the actions required for the Church to reach the aspirational target of net zero by 2030 are beyond the capability of the whole of the Connexion, and so the aspirational target should be withdrawn. Continuing with a target which is known to be beyond the Church would be dishonest and risk accusations of greenwashing. As the Council reports, it finds it regrettable that this is the position the Connexion has reached. The Council would not want the acknowledgment that the Conference's target for 2030 will be missed to dishearten those churches, circuits, districts and other bodies which are continuing to work towards 2030 and would encourage all those who can to continue to implement measures towards that goal with as much urgency as possible.

3 See Report 6, Missional Use of Property.

As noted above, significant progress towards net zero has occurred which would not have happened without the aspirational target being set. Over 1000 churches have signed up for Eco Church with over 700 Methodist congregations across England, Wales and Scotland holding Eco Church awards. This includes 499 Bronze Awards, 186 Silver and 18 Gold (17 through Eco Church and one through Eco Congregation Scotland). While it is not possible to highlight all these actions, some indication is helpful. The Yorkshire North and East District has undertaken extensive work to many buildings, with the most recent phase, 'Building Sustainable Hope' building on the success of their 'Tea and PV' and 'Net Zero Near You' projects, and work towards net zero has been undertaken at more than 35 churches. These projects were made possible by assessing the current carbon footprint of churches and identifying interventions to reduce energy use, generate energy on site and source energy from renewable sources.

The Action for Hope grants from the Connexional Priority Fund, discussed below, have provided the opportunity for some churches to begin their net zero journey, and some Districts have chosen to use this funding to encourage as many churches as possible to undertake energy audits, to take stock of their current situation and to develop a pathway to net zero. As discussed below, however, many Districts have not taken up their share of funding, and qualitative evidence indicates that some parts of the Church have not engaged with this work; this is reflective of the existing burden of compliance already placed on churches, Circuits and Districts from a number of directions.

This report outlines the progress made against the aims of Action for Hope where the most acute challenges lie, and suggests actions for the Church to take in the coming years. Given the pressures and burdens on individuals and bodies within the Church, the Council offers recommendations for engagement with these issues, but stops short of proposing a mandate for engagement. Through the Conference, however, the Council strongly urges churches, Circuits and Districts to keep reducing the Church's carbon footprint as a key part of their mission, and reminds the Connexion of the assistance available from the Connexional Team, A Rocha, and other organisations.

Aims of Action for Hope
All electricity and gas directly funded by MCB to have net zero emissions by 2030.

Progress

The majority of the work in reaching this aim falls on churches throughout the Connexion, with the support of Circuits, Districts and the Connexional Team.

A post of Net Zero Property Officer has been created within the Connexional Team to offer support directly to managing trustees and circuit and district postholders, as well

as to create guidance documents, highlight funding opportunities and create contractor directories which are available through the Methodist Church website.

Funding totalling £5 million has been made available from the Connexional Priority Fund, and this has formed a grant stream for Districts which can then offer funding to churches for net zero adaptation work. Alongside this funding, replacement project criteria have been updated to allow decarbonisation projects to be designated as replacement projects, thus keeping extra funds within Circuits where properties are sold and environmental works undertaken.

Close co-operation with District Property Secretaries and the Property Support Team has raised awareness of net zero issues and begun work to include consideration of the aspirational target in all property guidance and support offered, including within the consents process.

Methodist Church House has an electric heating system and therefore does not burn any fossil fuels on site. Roof mounted solar panels generate some electricity on site, and electricity purchased is on a renewable electricity tariff. As a result, the electricity and gas use at Methodist Church House is net zero.

Challenges

As noted above, there is currently no mechanism for measuring the carbon footprint of the Church's building portfolio. This makes quantitative progress against this goal impossible to measure, and it is not possible to establish the magnitude of the task before us.

The nature of the Church's property portfolio makes decarbonisation works challenging. The size and age of buildings, and the resulting level of insulation and size of spaces to heat, make decarbonisation difficult and expensive. The cost of building retrofits, particularly of buildings of this nature, is high. While funding is available from a number of sources, including the grants from the CPF, finances are not necessarily in the places required within the Connexion to fund these capital works.

The number of buildings owned by the Church compounds these issues and can put a significant financial strain on circuits and districts. Funding for net zero work can come from the sale of properties and the use of funds for the remaining buildings, but this requires a strategic plan for the use (and disposal) of buildings within circuits and districts.

A further complication is created by the number of buildings owned by the Church which are rented out. While these buildings will not have gas and electricity directly funded by

MCB, the future prospect of them returning to MCB use, as well as the uncertainty of future regulations around energy efficiency of rented buildings, make this a potential area of liability for the Church, and sale of these buildings can provide further funds for net zero work.

Qualitative evidence has highlighted a reluctance of trustees to sell premises, with retention for rental income, lack of capacity to manage sales and the potential use of buildings for as-yet unidentified uses cited as primary reasons.

Issues relating to the trusteeship of Methodist property and the missional use of property are discussed in depth elsewhere on the Conference Agenda, but the challenges discussed within that report have significant relevance to our net zero journey.[4]

While some Districts have reached the relevant criteria to access the grant funding available from the Connexional Priority Fund, many have not and much of this fund remains unspent.

Actions

The Connexional Council has directed the Connexional Team to implement a mechanism for churches to be able to record and assess their carbon footprint, allowing Circuits, Districts and the Connexional Team to view the aggregated data for churches within their purview which use the tool. This tool is currently in development, drawing on the expertise of the Digital Transformation Programme within the Connexional Team.

Once this tool has been developed and made available, all churches will be encouraged to use this system, as capacity allows, to facilitate local planning. Information from this tool can form an important part of the engagement of Circuits and Districts with the Missional Use of Property outlined in the paper elsewhere on the Conference agenda and facilitate a review of owned properties.

The degree to which this tool will allow the Connexional Council to monitor progress in reducing the carbon footprint of the Church will be dependent on its uptake and usage, but it will begin the process of establishing a baseline for emissions and identifying positive stories which can inspire further decarbonisation efforts.

The Connexional Council has directed the Connexional Team to establish new criteria for any further grant funding agreed by the Conference, with a focus on freeing up other

4 See report 6, Missional Use of Property.

funds and accessing third party funding streams. These criteria will aim to encourage the engagement of districts, and the circuits of which they are comprised, with the property review and carbon footprint reporting tool outlined above.

All travel directly funded by MCB to have net zero emissions by 2030.

Progress

A new travel policy has been produced which prioritises public transport and requires reasoning for use of car travel. This policy is in use by the Connexional Team, and a template policy is available for use across the Connexion.

Monitoring of travel emissions is occurring within the Connexional Team, with planning underway for mechanisms, policies and procedures to reduce these emissions.

Emissions from travel for committees have reduced, particularly through the use of virtual meetings, but it is important that these changes are maintained and strengthened rather than eroded and are reflected in formal ways of working.

The criteria for grant funding to districts from the Connexional Priority Fund, outlined above, required recipient districts to establish a mechanism to record emissions from district-funded travel.

Challenges

Some functions of the Church require significant travel, such as our work with global partners and international ecumenical organisations; work to reduce these emissions will require engaging with these global and ecumenical partners.

The Connexional Team has no way to assess or aggregate the emissions of travel funded by circuits, and this is likely to be a major constituent of total travel emissions.

Travel emissions are in part reliant on societal and structural issues, including the availability of public transport and electric vehicle chargers. With the UK government target of net zero by 2050, change in these areas is progressing slowly, and where travel is necessary this will act as a limiting factor on emissions reduction.

Actions

The Connexional Council has directed the Connexional Team to implement a mechanism for Circuits to be able to record and assess their carbon footprint from travel, allowing Districts and the Connexional Team to view the aggregated data. This tool is currently in development, drawing on the expertise of the Digital Transformation Programme within the Connexional Team. Consideration will be given within the Connexional Team to how these data can be extrapolated noting that data is likely to be incomplete.

Once this tool has been developed and made available, it is suggested that all Circuits and Districts are encouraged to use this system to facilitate local planning, particularly in relation to the preaching plan, as their capacity allows. Noting the important role of the preaching plan within the Methodist Church and the elements beyond the control of the Church, such as access to public transport, the intention is not to challenge the role of the preaching plan, but to encourage our environmental commitments to form part of the consideration in making the plan each quarter. This consideration will also inform the ongoing and upcoming work of the Connexional Team in supporting worship.

It is proposed that a formal way of working for committee meetings be implemented, which prioritises online meetings and reduces travel. It is suggested that this is modelled by the Connexional Council and those committees which report to it.

The four largest connexional events (the Methodist Conference, the Superintendents' Conferences, Diaconal Convocation and the Methodist Children and Youth Assembly) to have net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

Progress

Visible progress in reducing the carbon footprint of these events is limited, as the nature of the events mean that planning occurs significantly in advance of the event itself. For the events mentioned in the aim, key decisions such as the venue are made in the years before the event itself.

Progress has been made in integrating net zero into the planning process, with environmental impact being a standing agenda item of the newly formed Events Forum within the Connexional Team.

Visible steps have been taken, including the reduction of clothing produced for staff and volunteers at 3Generate 2025, and environmental issues have been included in the business and agendas of all of the named events. This has helped to keep the aspirational target visible at these events while planning work occurs in the background.

Challenges

A significant proportion of the carbon footprint of these events is due to the venue chosen, whether directly through gas and electricity or indirectly through travel and catering, and relatively few venues have an aspiration to be net zero by 2030.

The events outlined in this aim have complex requirements of venues, including safeguarding, accessibility and location. The combination of these requirements and the aspirational target of net zero are likely to produce a severely restricted pool of possible venues. Commitment to this target is also likely to require us to reassess our relationship with venues with which we have long-standing relationships.

The Action for Hope Faith Plan does not provide an indication of what is in scope of this aim, whether it is energy and travel directly funded by MCB as in the above aims, or whether it has a broader scope. It could, for example, include everything funded by MCB (eg energy and travel used by suppliers), or indeed an all-encompassing view of the emissions created as a result of the event (including, for example, self-funded participant travel). A practical and realistic approach to the emissions of these events is likely to find a middle ground in this conversation, but further work is required to understand the scope of this aim.

Whether the emissions of attendees are included within the scope of this aim or not, it is clear that meaningful emissions reduction will require working closely with attendees as well as developing guidance for organisers.

Actions

The Connexional Council has directed that the organisers of the Methodist Conference, Superintendents' Conferences, 3Generate and Diaconal Convocation work with a specialist third-party organisation to establish a baseline carbon footprint for the events in 2026. This process is currently at the procurement stage.

Once baseline carbon footprints have been established, as outlined above, further work will need to be undertaken to establish what is within scope of this aim, and what is achievable within the given timeframe. These reports will also provide a data driven foundation for specific plans to allow measures to be taken to make annual reductions in the events' carbon footprints.

The Connexional Council has directed the Connexional Team to establish an Environmental Impact Assessment (following a similar framework as the Equality Impact Assessment) to help embed net zero in project work throughout the Connexion. This tool would be used for project management within the Connexional Team and offered to the Connexion to support all projects including building works. This resource is currently under development.

Increase the positive environmental impact of MCB's investments

Progress

The Central Finance Board (CFB) divested from fossil fuel companies in 2021, following a Memorial to the Conference in 2017 which was referred to the Council. In 2020, the Council determined that the Church should divest fully from fossil fuels.

While divestment from fossil fuels is important in reducing the negative impacts of MCB's investments, the CFB has also engaged in active and constructive dialogue with organisations and companies within the financial sphere to reduce the carbon footprint of the Church's investments and encourage broader change within the sector.

Beyond reduction of negative impacts of investments, the CFB is in discussion with Operation Noah and the Just Money Movement regarding becoming signatories of the Green Investment Declaration, which includes a commitment to at least 5% of assets being invested in climate solutions.

Challenges

While divesting from fossil fuel companies means that Methodist investments are not directly exposed to fossil fuel exploration and extraction, there is still indirect investment through the Church's relationship with high street banks which remain heavily invested in fossil fuels.

Actions

The Connexional Council directed the Connexional Team to continue to monitor the situation regarding high street banks with a view to banking with an organisation which does not invest in fossil fuels once this option becomes available.

The Methodist Council to appoint a Resource Group to review and update Hope in God's Future.

Progress

A resource group was appointed by the Methodist Council which reviewed Hope in God's Future, and an updated text was presented to the Methodist Conference in 2025. The revised text sought to update the scientific understanding of climate change, reflect

the actions of the Methodist Church since Hope in God's Future was written, including the aspirational net zero target, and broaden the range of theological voices, with a particular focus on the intersections between colonialism and climate change and the disproportionate impact of climate change on the poor and marginalised.

While the resource group was able to reflect some of these issues within the revised text, the group recommended that a new Conference Statement be drafted to be presented to the Methodist Conference in 2027, and this recommendation was accepted by the Conference.

A new resource group has now been appointed by the Connexional Council to take this work forward, including the voices of global partners within the writing process.

Methodist churches signed up to Eco Church and Eco Congregation Scotland

Progress

Over 1000 churches have signed up for Eco Church with over 700 Methodist congregations across England, Wales and Scotland holding Eco Church awards. This includes 499 Bronze Awards, 186 Silver and 18 Gold (17 through Eco Church and one through Eco Congregation Scotland). Alongside the awards for churches, criteria for bronze and silver districts have been developed with Eco Church. These criteria identify ways in which districts can directly engage with the Eco Church process, as well as encouraging individual churches within the district to begin or continue their Eco Church journeys. Co-operation with Eco Church on the development of Eco Circuit award criteria is currently underway.

In January 2026, the Connexional Council agreed a formal partnership with A Rocha which will increase the capacity of Eco Church to work with the Methodist Church.

Challenges

Registration rates currently fall short of reaching the target of 50% of Methodist churches registered by 2026, although the percentage of bronze awards exceeds the target.

Eco Church has recently revised its questionnaire with a deliberate aim of making it harder to reach the higher award levels, reflecting the increased urgency of the climate and nature crises.

If a significant focus were placed on encouraging registrations at the expense of encouraging awards this may slow momentum of receiving awards and reduce relative award rates as these are calculated based on the number of registered churches.

Actions

It is proposed that Districts are encouraged to register as Eco Districts[5] and to develop a plan for encouraging their Circuits and churches to register. Registering as an Eco District does not require a particular standard to have been reached, and is the starting point of the journey.

Alongside registering as an Eco District, it is proposed that Districts be encouraged to establish an aim for Eco Church registrations and awards for churches within their purview with the aim of increasing the rate at which both are achieved.

For Methodist members/adherents to reduce their carbon footprints to one ton per year, particularly via the three key areas of energy, travel and diet.

Progress

This aim is the area of the faith plan over which the Conference has least direct influence and progress has, therefore, focussed on identifying the levers and mechanisms of influence, as well as understanding what is achievable in the timeframe.

Measurement of this aim is challenging, as will be outlined below, and a new tool for measuring individual carbon footprints was required. Working with Climate Stewards, footprintr.me[6] has been identified as an appropriate tool and shared via the Methodist Church website.

The primary mechanism for having an impact on the lifestyles of members and adherents has been through engagement with A Methodist Way of Life. There is a clear link between the net zero target and the 'flourish' station, so this has formed the initial focus of effort.

As the net zero work and A Methodist Way of Life continue to develop, it is important that this focus broadens to allow members and adherents to engage with environmental work through any of the Methodist Way of Life stations. Co-operation with the

5 Where possible – Eco District is offered by Eco Church to churches in England and Wales, but is not a possibility with Eco Congregation Scotland.
6 https://www.methodist.org.uk/action/climate/action-for-hope/lifestyle/

Evangelism and Growth Team in this area is critical, and development of a small group resource within the 'On The Way' stream of work is planned.

Challenges

In the course of working on this aim it became clear that the assumptions which underpinned the initial goal were inaccurate, and that a footprint of one ton per year represented a significantly greater reduction than anticipated when the faith plan was produced. The figure quoted as the average UK carbon footprint in the original report, 4.85 tons per year, did not account for all sources of emissions and was approximately half of the average UK footprint reported by the UN National Inventory.

In addition, the suggested method for measuring lifestyle emissions outlined in the faith plan had practical, logistical and staffing challenges, with issues relating to the representative nature of a sample and the demand the approach would put on the resources and work plan of the Joint Public Issues Team.

Actions

Given that the carbon footprint of Methodist members and adherents will largely be comprised of emissions outside time spent in gathered community, it is important to retain a focus on these dispersed emissions as well as those when gathered.

Empower and Equip Advocates

Progress

Working in collaboration with Justice Seeking Church and the Learning Network, the Eco Community Network has been established to bring together like-minded people on a range of environmental topics. Gatherings take place once a quarter and are open to individuals across the Connexion, with a focus on equipping members to address environmental matters in their own communities.

Worship resources have been developed and curated through the Resource Hub to empower and equip those who lead worship and, indirectly, those worshipping in gathered community. Further resources are in development in collaboration with the Ministries, Mission and Learning Network teams.

Carbon Literacy Training is being delivered within the Connexional Team, with a goal for all members of the Connexional Team to become accredited in the coming years, and in 2025 the Connexional Team became the first religious organisation to become an

accredited Bronze Carbon Literate Organisation. To ensure work towards the aspirational target is embedded across the Connexional Team, all staff will have a net zero objective within their Performance, Development and Review (PDR) process from 2025 onwards.

Challenges

Across the Connexion much of the work in this area has reached those already interested in environmental matters. This resourcing is important, but there are challenges in reaching those not already engaged.

The reality of fewer volunteers and office holders across the Connexion results in individuals being stretched, meaning that this is often one priority or area of advocacy amongst many for individuals. This serves to heighten the requirement for embedding net zero matters across the work of different individuals rather than creating new roles, as well as reflecting the above challenge of reaching those not currently engaged with this work.

Actions

The Connexional Council has directed the Connexional Team to develop a model for delivery of Carbon Literacy Training to district environment leads, and to support those individuals in delivering Carbon Literacy Training within their District.

It is proposed that Circuits are encouraged to consider environmental matters in the learning and development opportunities for Local Preachers and Ministers, and that consideration be given to how the inclusion of climate justice and caring for God's creation form part of the worship lives of members and adherents.

Conclusion

Hope is thus a reason for bold action in the world in accordance with God's will for creation, not an excuse for inaction. – Hope in God's Future[7]

While the reality of the scale of decarbonising the Church has meant that the aspirational target of net zero by 2030 will not be reached, this must be viewed as one stage of the journey and not the end of it. The scale of the challenge ahead, alongside the worsening

7 https://www.methodist.org.uk/action/climate/hope-in-gods-future/part-2-encountering-the-word-of-god/

and unjust impacts of the climate crisis on God's creation, require us to increase our efforts rather than lose focus or momentum.

The Council therefore encourages the Church to undertake the following actions, as capacity allows:

- Churches complete the Carbon Footprint tool for buildings (currently under development).
- Circuits complete the Carbon Footprint tool for travel (currently under development).
- Districts (in England and Wales) sign up as Eco Districts.[8]
- Districts establish targets for churches with Eco Church or Eco Congregation Scotland.
- Districts develop net zero action plans.
- Circuits undertake review of property, including information from the Carbon Footprint tool for buildings (once available).
- Circuits review circuit travel (including the preaching plan) in light of information from carbon footprint tool for travel (once available).
- Circuits and Districts implement property reviews, reducing property numbers and measuring reduction of carbon footprint using Carbon Footprint Tool for buildings (once available).
- Once net zero plans are in place and emissions reductions have occurred, begin offsetting remaining emissions, while continuing to reduce emissions

Given the acknowledgement that the aspirational target will not be reached, it is important that consideration be given to how the future carbon reduction work and aspirations of the Church are communicated to ensure honesty and openness while still providing inspiration and a sense of urgency. Work on the communication of this strategy is urgent, in order to avoid the reputational risk of publicising unrealistic targets and potential accusations of 'greenwashing'.

This moment of reassessment also provides an opportunity to consider the scope of carbon reduction work, the ways in which the Connexional Team can support these efforts, and other opportunities for the Church to have a positive impact in this regard. An indicative roadmap of ongoing Connexional Team support is found in Appendix 1, although this is subject to revision in response to the direction of Conference and refocusing of carbon reduction priorities. The Connexional Team will report to the Council on the next steps whilst continuing to reduce its emissions as fast as possible.

8 This option is not offered by Eco Congregation Scotland

As we consider the work of Action for Hope to this point it is important to hold both the lament that the Church will not reach its aspirational target and the celebration of progress which has been made as a result of setting the goal. Both the lament and celebration must be used as motivation to further effort.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

37/1. The Conference receives the Report.

37/2. The Conference, with regret, agrees to the refocusing of the Net Zero work as an ongoing carbon reduction plan with the removal of the aspirational target of 2030.

Appendix 1 – Roadmap of Connexional Team Support

All electricity and gas directly funded by MCB to have net zero emissions by 2030.

2026-2027	Missional Use of Property Review
2026	Connexional Manses net zero audits
2026	Connexional owned properties net zero audits
2026	Church carbon footprint tool development and piloting
2026	Outcome of group energy buying consultation
2026-2027	Church carbon footprint tool rollout to all churches
2026-2027	Review of quinquennial guidance
2027	Manse guidance developed from Connexional Manses work
2027	New grant criteria established for future Action for Hope grants
2027-2028	Connexional Manses retrofitting
2026-2030	Provision of net zero buildings guidance and consultation

All travel directly funded by MCB to have net zero emissions by 2030.

2026	Monitoring of Connexional Team travel emissions begins
2026	Circuit Travel emissions tool development and piloting
2026	Guidance on installation of EV chargers at churches and manses developed.
2026	Ways of working developed by Connexional Committees to reduce travel emissions.
2026-2027	Team-specific travel emissions reductions plans created within the Connexional Team
2026-2027	Consideration of EV salary sacrifice scheme
2026-2027	Circuit Travel emissions tool rollout to all circuits
2026-2027	Consultation on ministerial travel to identify key areas for support

The four largest connexional events (the Methodist Conference, the Superintendents' Conferences, Diaconal Convocation and the Methodist Children and Youth Assembly) to decrease carbon foot print towards net zero.

2026	Development and piloting of Environmental Impact Assessment
2026	Identification of consultants to assess the carbon footprint of the named events.
2026-2027	Consultants produce carbon footprint for events and key recommendations for reduction
2027	Establishment of baseline carbon footprints and scope of emissions covered by this aim.
2027-2028	Development of net zero event guidance, taking learning from large events, as applicable to all events.
2028-2030	Continued monitoring of carbon footprint and reductions.

Increase the positive environmental impact of MCB's investments

2026	Signing of the Green Investment Declaration
2026-2027	Investigation of banking options with a view to banking with an organisation which does not invest in fossil fuels.
2026-2030	Continue engagement with the CFB to minimise exposure to fossil fuels and increase investment in environmental solutions.

The Methodist Council to appoint a Resource Group to review and update Hope in God's Future.

2026-2027	Resource Group reviews and updates Hope in God's Future
2027	Development of resources to facilitate engagement with the document across the Connexion.
2027	The Conference considers a draft Conference Statement.
2027-2028	Consultation across the Connexion
2029	The Conference is asked to adopt a the new Conference Statement.

Methodist churches signed up to Eco Church and Eco Congregation

2026	Formal, three-year partnership with Eco Church begins
2026	Silver Eco District criteria established
2026	Development of Eco Church engagement plan to increase registrations.
2026-2027	Analysis of barriers to advancement within the Eco Church awards
2026-2027	Silver Eco Circuit criteria established
2027	Implementation of specific guidance to address barriers
2027-2028	Gold Eco District criteria established
2028	Gold Eco Circuit criteria established

For Methodist members/adherents to reduce their carbon footprints to one ton per year, particularly via the three key areas of energy, travel and diet

2026	Revisiting the aim in light of the challenges identified
2026-2027	Development of a small group resource to link with 'On the Way'
2026-2027	Further explore the integration of net zero with Methodist Way of Life
2027	Explore data integration with Climate Stewards to aggregate the anonymised data of Methodists using footprintr.me
2028	Identify areas of large footprint and develop guidance accordingly

Empower and Equip Advocates

2026	Continue development (with Justice Seeking Church) of the Eco Community Network

2026	Development (with the Learning Network) of a model of Carbon Literacy Training for individuals in districts, and support them in delivering the training themselves
2026-2027	Delivery of Carbon Literacy Training to district representatives
2026-2027	Creation of worship resources, curated through the Resource Hub
2026-2027	Engagement with the Connexional Learning and Development Forum and Review of Learning for Ministry
2027-2028	Work with learning institutions to develop and deliver environmental material to lay and ordained learners.