**The Northampton Methodist Eco- Summit 31st October 2023 Summary**

**Who was there?** 27 zoom users with all Circuits of the Northampton District present at the Eco-Summit.

**The Connexional picture**

The Methodist Conference has set a target of becoming a net zero emissions Church by 2030.

We have developed Action for Hope to help us keep focused on our journey.  The three areas we will work on are:

* Faith-consistent use of assets
* Wisdom
* Lifestyles

More details can be found here- https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/environment-and-climate-change/

**The District Picture from the survey**

* 16 out of 19 Circuits are enrolled in the A-Rocha Scheme in some way.
* 1in 5 churches in the District (Over 50) are registered or received an A Rocha award
* 3 out of 19 Circuits have a building that have some renewable energy sources- mostly heat pump or solar panels
* No Circuit has a net zero or equivalent officer role
* Manses have been an area of focus with the following additions being actioned: electric car charging point, increased insulation, efficient heating system, led lighting and water butts
* Resources that are desired range from- awareness and commitment, resource uses, use of buildings and policy
* Barriers to this work consist of, lack of volunteers, lack of appetite and more pressing matters

The District is committed to the Connexional target and sees this through the lens of our Mission Plan.

Details of our work can be found here- <https://www.northamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk/mission-team/mission-development-plan.html>

Northampton Environmental policy- <https://www.northamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk/about/policies.html>

**Useful Links**

District Grants for those undertaking a net zero project <https://www.northamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk/resources/finance-grants.html>

Link to find your energy EPC Get a new energy certificate - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Funding Opportunity <https://communityenergyengland.org/pages/funding-opportunities-2>

Lent resource that comes recommended [The Plenty! course – Joy in Enough](https://joyinenough.org/resources/plenty/)

**Further opportunities from the community energy fund**

[Funding opportunities web page](https://communityenergyengland.org/pages/funding-opportunities-2)

On this page we gather a range of ongoing and time-limited funding from a wide range of sources and regions, all relevant to community energy organisations in England.

[National Map for the Community Energy Sector](https://communityenergyengland.org/pages/nationalmap)

If you would like to make your work visible on the map, you can sign up to our [2023 Get on the Map](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf67W2lN5K0vVcDN-uK6KeJK1qXNNRk8IanxWcKIJ_xfDTQBA/viewform) campaign. In turn, we will be supporting our 280+members to raise their profile through the map, gaining 5000+ monthly views since its launch.

[Funding Database](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/114OBej-6iGGFHDHrsEGz-u8fK6ss7O-1ubPoTEMZC0o/edit#gid=1445570771)

We have created a spreadsheet to help you assess and access new central government (and some other) funds that will be channelled mostly via local authorities.

[Join us](https://communityenergyengland.org/pages/join-us)

If you would like to find out more about membership, please read our [membership overview](https://communityenergyengland.org/pages/membership), and if you are unsure which type of member you would be, please read our [membership types](https://communityenergyengland.org/pages/membership-types) pages.

[Community Energy Connect](https://www.younity.coop/take-action)

This new platform is an ideal space to connect with volunteers. Feel free to contact the team at Younity with any inquiries related to PPA, funding, or general questions. Their inbox is always open at together@younity.coop.

**The Next Steps**

It was agreed that we would seek to meet as a EcoSummit group 3 times a year. This gathering is open to all so do pass the invitation on. The dates for 2024 as follows:

Wednesday 7th February 2024@ 7:30pm on Zoom

Wednesday 8th May 2024 @ 7:30pm on Zoom

Tuesday 22nd October 2024 @ 7:30pm on Zoom

**The District Eco- Working Stream**

As noted in the survey we are keen to help form policy for the District Executive to engage with which will inform key strategic decisions for the future. To do this we are wishing to establish a working group that will meet 6 times a year on zoom. If you are interested to join please email- matt.forsyth@northamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk