

## Reading Christian Environmental Link

RCEL's Ecclesiastical Energy plan is bearing exciting fruit: Park URC have been successful in getting a number of grants and loans to enable them to put pv panels on their church and community centre roofs as well as to install a biomass boiler. The panels will hopefully be installed in the next few months and be a witness to passers by of the importance to the church of cutting their carbon footprint for the sake of the world's poorest people. There is still fundraising to be done to raise the final £15,000 required. This project has enabled Park URC to become Reading's third EcoCongregation.

As RCEL co-ordinator I was asked to speak to the Green City Open Spaces Forum in September about what churches have been doing to reduce their carbon emissions. Park URC's plans were obviously a good example to include as well as the Quakers' very impressive energy saving measures which have cut their emissions by 40% in the past five years. There were a number of smaller scale projects that I was able to mention too.

As RCEL's representative on Reading Climate Change Partnership I contributed to a working party responding to the current Local Transport Plan. As a result of preparation for this we also submitted an independent RCEL response as well.

We supported RITE/GREN's Community Buildings event by encouraging churches to attend and I think half of the community groups present were churches. We are very much hoping to get a website set up in the near future when time allows.

Joanna Laynesmith Dec 2010