

Archdiocese of Birmingham
Environmental Policy
Appendix B

We believe that the ***livesimply award*** offers the best way for everyone, Parishes, Schools, Communities to respond to Pope Francis' appeal for an ecological conversion. This Award allows and encourages parishes, schools, communities to take stock of where they are, and to build on what they are doing at present and to develop from where they are at present.

Our aim is for the Diocese to become a Live Simply Diocese by 2025, that is 51% of parishes have achieved this award. We expect the same for Schools.

We have 12 parishes plus Newman University who have achieved this award. We expect at least three more parishes in each Deanery to have signed up for this Award by December 2021, with a further three parishes signed up before end of 2022.

Members of parishes who have achieved the award will be available to share their experiences with any parish just starting out. Members of the Justice and Peace Commission will also be available. Each Deanery will report progress to the Area Bishop and to the Commission by July each year. (This will enable the Diocese to celebrate progress during the Season of Creation).

Become a *livesimply award* community

The *livesimply award* is an opportunity for Catholic communities - parishes, schools, religious orders and chaplaincies - to respond to Pope Francis' invitation in Laudato Si' to "work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us".

More details are on the CAFOD Website: [Livesimply award | CAFOD](#)

What is the *livesimply award*?

It is awarded to communities who can show how they have been living:

- simply
- in solidarity with people in poverty
- sustainably with creation.

Some *livesimply award* communities have encouraged people to walk or cycle to church or school, install solar panels, start recycling schemes, join a climate change campaign, support Fairtrade stalls or donate to a local food bank. The award celebrates what you have already done and inspires you to do more. It helps your community to live, not just more simply, but also more fully.

Sign up using the form on the CAFOD Website, to express your interest.

1. Next, develop a simple plan, using [this action plan template](#), based on current activities and new projects you'd like to undertake, and send it to CAFOD. When we receive your form, we will send you a *livesimply award* registration certificate to display in your community.
2. We'll support you with an email group, resources and the opportunity to share ideas and experience.
3. When you're ready, [let us know](#) and we'll come and visit your community, find out what you've been doing and help you celebrate and share your achievements.

Get started [Livesimply award | CAFOD](#)

Check out our [step-by-step guide](#), visit our [livesimply ideas page](#), or sign up below to get started.

You need the backing of your parish priest or head teacher, and a small enthusiastic group to encourage people to get started.