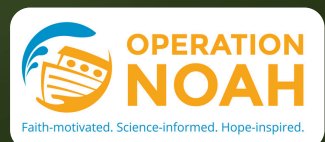


**TAKE
ACTION**

Making your Church's money work for God's creation


A toolkit for campaigners





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“The global financial system must be part of the climate solution.”

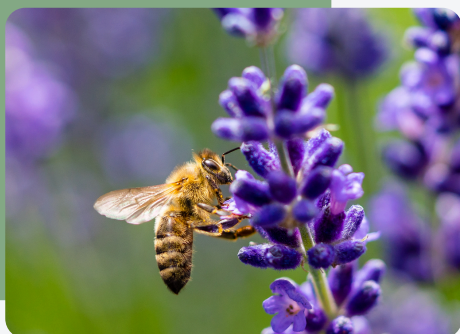
*Antonio Guterrez
UN Secretary-General*

Introduction

This toolkit provides theological insights, practical steps, and resources to assist campaigners advocating for their faith institutions to adopt the Green Investment Declaration (GID) launched by Operation Noah and the JustMoney Movement. The declaration invites faith-based organisations to align their investments with their ethical and theological principles to actively address the climate crisis.

The need for investment

Despite the urgency of transitioning to a low carbon economy, the burning of fossil fuels continues to be the main source of carbon emissions, accounting for 62% of global greenhouse gas emissions. We need to apply what Project Drawdown* calls an 'emergency brake' to our greenhouse gas emissions: drastically cutting the use of fossil fuels across all sectors.



London is a global centre for fossil fuel financing.

While the UK is one of the leaders in transitioning to renewable electricity, London remains the second biggest financing centre for the fossil fuel industry. Finance needs to move away from its investments in fossil fuels and the Church can play a leading role in speeding up the transition to a green economy. The Church has influence in the public sphere that 'punches above its weight' and we can use our voice and lead by example to ensure we are cutting emissions as quickly as possible.

Many churches have divested from fossil fuels. Now is the time to speed up the investment in climate solutions. The global Church collectively manages approximately \$260 billion** in financial assets: imagine the difference we can make if we invest even just a small percentage of this in solutions that combat the climate crisis.

*see www.projectdrawdown.org for their Table of Solutions

** <https://www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/news/faith-aligned-impact-investments-creating-game-changing-opportunities-making-world-more-sustainable>, published 2/11/22

Theological principles

1



Care for God's creation

God has given us dominion over the earth, to love it, care for it and bless it. Investing in climate solutions is a practical way of showing love and care for God's creation.

2



Love your neighbour

Climate change impacts the poorest in the world. We can demonstrate love by ensuring our money is used to invest in solutions that transform the lives of people.

3



Justice for everyone

Countries with the least emissions are often most affected by the climate crisis. The church can invest in solutions that address the imbalance and injustice the climate crisis.

4



Prophetic action

The church can act prophetically and show leadership at a critical time. We can amplify the need for investments and speak truth to powerful financial institutions.

5



Hope and the new creation

Green investment 'puts our money where our mouth is': hope in a renewed earth, a restored relationship with creation, investing in caring for creation.

[Download Theological Principles Booklet](#)



Why the Green Investment Declaration?

The Green Investment Declaration provides a practical way for churches to act. It encourages the church to shift investments toward climate solutions such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and nature-based solutions.

The Declaration also aims to build momentum and create a movement towards climate solution investment. By making the Green Investment Declaration and communicating publicly about it, churches and faith organisations are sending out a strong signal to the rest of the investment world and society more generally about the urgent need to finance the transition to a green economy.



Three signatory levels:



Acorn

Signatories at this level make a commitment to invest in climate solutions within 2-3 years, which includes ensuring their investment policy reflects the values of the organisation and its intention to invest in climate solutions.



Sapling

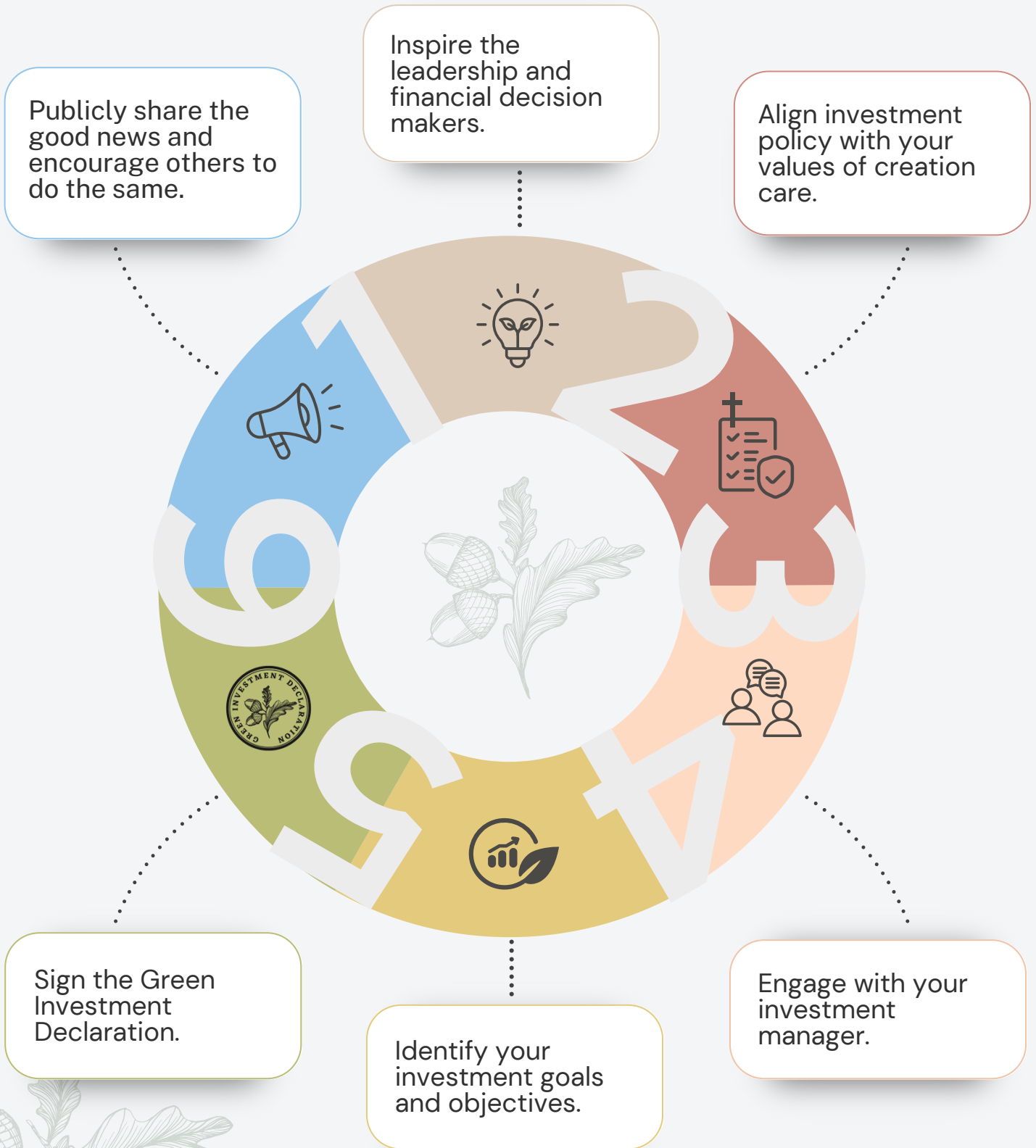
Signatories have already made, and communicated, their first investment in climate solutions, and have plans for further investments.



Oak

Signatories at this level will have already invested at least 5% of assets in climate solutions, and commit to increase their investment in climate solutions within 5 years, demonstrating this by creating an organisational plan for investing for impact.

Six steps to green investment

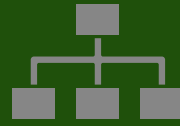




Actions for campaigners

1

Understand your church's / diocese's decision-making structures



[Download our guide to taking steps in your denomination](#) 

2

Share with others and mobilise support



[Download a promotional flyer](#) 

[Share a promotional video](#) 

3

Write to the financial decision-makers



[Download a letter template](#) 

[Download the Six Steps to Green Investment guide](#) 

4

Give a talk or presentation at your PCC / Deanery Synod / District or Board meeting



[Download a talk](#) 

[Download presentation slides](#) 

[Download liturgy and prayers](#) 

[Download a questionnaire for members](#) 

5

Put a proposal to the PCC / Synod / Finance Board



[See an example motion](#)



6

Work with Treasurer / Finance Board to align investment policies to faith values

[Download Frequently Asked Questions for investors](#)



[Download Guide for Church Investors](#)



7

Organise a 'Signing of the Green Investment Declaration' event and share the news!

[Download sample press release](#)



Case Study of Green Investment

Diocese of Truro

Hearing from Mike Sturgess, Chair of Finance Board:

“As faith organisations, we have the opportunity to play a significant role in fighting the climate crisis, but only if we can demonstrate that we do indeed cherish creation, we are cutting carbon and we actively speak up about it. So much of what we are doing in the Diocese of Truro stems from or is designed to support our environment strategy, summarised as Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon and Speak Up.”

“Our environment strategy encompasses so many aspects of life in the Diocese and every committee overseeing a key area provides quarterly updates to the Diocesan Environment Board on progress towards our strategy. That includes our housing, our land holdings, our investments, and our buildings (the cathedral, our churches, our church schools and the diocesan offices). It even includes scrutiny of all our policies, to ensure they either actively support the environment strategy, or are neutral. A diocesan policy should never act against the strategy.”

So, what does this look like in practice?

“Let’s start with our clergy housing. In 2021 we had no houses with an EPC rating of A. Most were rated D. Two and a half years on, we have 13 houses rated A, and we expect to reach about 20 by the end of 2023. This is out of a portfolio of about 120 houses and we will continue to work through the whole portfolio.

“Our investment portfolio was easier to deal with. We wanted to come out of fossil fuel extraction altogether. When one of our fund managers could not offer a fossil fuel free portfolio, we sold all our holding with that fund and reinvested with two new funds with high ESG credentials. We also invested in some infrastructure funds, including renewables. This was as an alternative to gilts, but it also allowed us to reinvest directly in the environment. We estimate that 10% of our investment portfolio is now in renewables.”



What about your land holdings?

“We hold quite a bit of land too, known as glebe land. The majority of this is agricultural land leased on farm business tenancies. We have carried out a high-level analysis looking at all the potential future uses of each piece of land. Much of our increase in our asset base has come from selling land either for open market developments or for social housing. However, we also actively look for other opportunities. We have mapped our land against the grid in Cornwall to try to identify sites where we might develop renewable projects – mostly solar farms and / or battery storage. We are talking to developers about Net Biodiversity Gains and using our land to meet the requirement for a 10% increase in biodiversity for each development. We have looked into woodlands, carbon capture in grasslands and wild meadow fields, and flood defences. Whilst it is early days yet, we have already leased some land to support environmental schemes.”

