

EcoQuakers Ireland Eco-Queries

These are a set of 12 queries with a focus on the environment. They can be used in any order in any month. But they are ordered to correspond with our behaviours at various times of the year. Thus no. 11 corresponds with buying presents for Christmas.

Query 1 – Sustainability – suggested month January

Do we refrain from living beyond what the Earth can provide for ourselves and for future generations?

Are we mindful of sustainability, equality, and community in all we do?

Query 2 – Foster Hope

Do we foster and encourage hope, in others and ourselves, amidst the despair of our climate and biodiversity crises?

Do we work towards a desirable future where there would be wholesome human interactions, enjoyment of nature and our needs met from the abundant Earth?

Query 3 – Live simply

Do we live simply? Do we make do with what we have, reducing our consumerism and repairing, recycling and reusing rather than replacing things?

Query 4 – Time outdoors

Do we spend more time outdoors, noticing, appreciating and connecting with nature on our doorstep? Do we celebrate and protect the diversity of the natural world?

Query 5 – Travel – suggested month: May

Do we mindfully seek to travel in a way that does not harm the Earth avoiding unnecessary travel by car and aeroplane whenever we can?

Query 6 – Biodiversity

Do we encourage wildlife in our gardens and public spaces, such as allowing insect friendly plants to grow? Do we educate ourselves about rewilding? Do we encourage the use of composting in order to help regenerate the soil?

Query 7 – Buy local

Do we buy locally from suppliers, producers and growers, reducing our dependence on international transport? Do we inform ourselves of the benefits to the Earth of a sustainable diet? Are we aware of the damage caused by intensive farming and the damage caused to ourselves and the environment of eating ultra-processed foods? And do we consume local, organic food if available and affordable?

Query 8– Economic systems

Do we actively question the need for economic growth, which damages the Earth through unnecessary consumerism?

Do we take time to understand the economic systems which generate destruction and explore positive alternatives, such as circular economies and regenerative agriculture.

Query 9 – Nature

Are we aware of the ongoing ecological and human crisis?

Do we work together with Nature rather than allowing our perceived needs to dominate those of all other creatures on Earth?

Does this awareness encourage us to reflect and thus lead us to act to protect Nature?

Query 10 – Buildings

Do we make efforts to insulate our homes and buildings for which we have responsibility, so as to reduce the need to use fuel to heat, or indeed, cool them? Do we take simple steps, like wearing an extra jumper to avoid unnecessarily using heating systems, which often require fossil fuels?

Query 11 – Purchasing habits – suggested month: November

Do we give consideration to our consumption, especially at festive times?

Do we try to consume less and thus produce less waste, so as to reduce our carbon footprint, so that others may live in dignity?

Do we keep ourselves informed on issues such as fast fashion and make informed choices about what we buy and where we shop?

Query 12 – Daily living

Are we conscious of our interconnection with people around the world and the impact of our actions on others near and far?

Do we feed, clothe, and house ourselves in a way that nurtures the world rather than causing damage, and social and environmental injustice?