

## Model Environmental Policy for Churches in the Diocese

*This model is intended to be a starting point for helping to shape a policy which is appropriate for the particular context of a local church. So it should be amended and extended by churches to take account of their particular circumstances as well as the Diocesan policy. One method of implementing this policy would be to follow the Eco Church programme.*

### **We affirm these elements of our faith:**

- Through Christ, God has created an awesome and majestic cosmos to bring Him praise and glory. We are but one part of His created order.
- Jesus has redeemed the whole earth through His death and resurrection.
- We recognise that we have a special responsibility to care for the Earth so that human life and all God's creatures may be sustained in harmony.

### **Aim**

As a local church, we aim to take the practical steps necessary to realise the Fifth Mark of Mission, which is "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain the life of the earth".

### **Objective**

As a church community, we will take environmental concerns into account in our mission, worship, study, education, training, pastoral, administrative and other projects and programmes.

### **Actions**

1. We will appoint a person as our Environmental Officer/Champion to lead our programme and encourage him or her to bring relevant environmental issues and concerns forward to the PCC on a regular basis.
2. We will include our concern for sustainability in our worship and teaching.
3. We will undertake an environmental and energy audit of the church premises and property, identify the most significant issues and impacts which should be addressed and make and implement plans and programmes to tackle them, recognising that some additional costs may be incurred to minimise environmental impacts. (See partial lists below).
4. We will work with others in our local community to identify environmental issues which should be addressed in our area and help develop actions to tackle them.
5. As the church's energy use is arguably its greatest environmental issue, we will seek to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of the electricity and gas used in church premises by:

- Switching to “green” energy suppliers (renewably generated electricity and biogas)
  - Using thermostats for temperature control
  - Fitting LED light bulbs
  - Improving insulation wherever practicable
  - Turning off lights, appliances and computers when not in use
  - Replacing old, inefficient boilers where practicable and investigating renewable heating alternatives
6. We will encourage our staff and congregation wherever possible to use forms of transport to work, meetings etc. which have minimum or reduced environmental impact – e.g. walk, cycle, public transport, car sharing electric/ hydrogen vehicles.
  7. We will seek ways to reduce material consumption and the impact of our activities on the environment by, wherever possible:
    - serving locally produced food where possible
    - minimising the amount of red meat and dairy products served
    - using email rather than sending hard copies
    - using recycled paper
    - reusing/ repairing items
    - using low environmental impact cleaning materials
  8. We will avoid using water unnecessarily, install water meters where appropriate, check for leakages, fit water minimising systems to taps and cisterns wherever practicable.
  9. We will assess our land and property for wildlife and manage them to conserve biodiversity.
  10. We will encourage individual members of our congregations to take actions in their personal lives to complement and supplement these actions of the church community.
  11. We will participate in the Eco Church programme.

This policy and programme will be reviewed every three years in light of developments. Next review date –

### Useful Resources

Eco Church, A Rocha <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

Diocese of Leeds Environment webpages [www.leeds.anglican.org/environment](http://www.leeds.anglican.org/environment)

Shrinking the Footprint, Church Care [www.churchcare.co.uk/shrinking-the-footprint/about-shrinking-the-footprint](http://www.churchcare.co.uk/shrinking-the-footprint/about-shrinking-the-footprint)

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland environment webpage  
<https://ctbi.org.uk/environment-links#ecochurch>

Pray and Fast for the Climate [www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/](http://www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/)

Green Christian [www.greenchristian.org.uk/](http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/)

Climate Stewards [www.climatestewards.org/](http://www.climatestewards.org/)

Operation Noah <http://operationnoah.org/>

Caring for God's Acre, churchyard care [www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/)