



Parish Environmental Policy template for Churches in the Diocese

Our principles and values

- **Our Church is committed to minimising our impact on the environment.** We believe in the Christian values affirmed below, which form the basis of our concern for the environment. We take our environmental impact seriously. We take the approach that we are responsible for our own environmental impact and we are therefore also responsible for mitigating it. This policy statement summarises key principles by which all trustees, volunteers and employees seek to operate.
- **God created the world and everything in it.** As Christians it is our responsibility to care for creation, using resources wisely in order that climate change is mitigated, biodiversity protected or enhanced, finite resources conserved, and waste and pollution minimised.
- **Seeking climate justice is part of Christian discipleship and practice.** Following Christ's teachings means loving our global neighbours, and caring for creation. The climate crisis both reflects and feeds off inequality, exploitation and greed: often the communities who are suffering the most from its effects, particularly in the Global South, are those who have done least to cause it. We will aim to act in accordance with this, making changes to improve our sustainability, and to show solidarity with those across the world who are suffering in this crisis.
- **We aim to contribute to meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.** Our operating principles, consistent with the Christian principles stated, are drawn from recognised good practice in environmental management. These include: sustainable resource management, that radical changes are made to our consumption and production with the objective of minimising any negative environmental impacts; the polluter pays principle, that the perpetrator or beneficiary of an activity that harms the environment or human health must bear the cost and not pass it on to others; and the precautionary principle, that lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason to postpone measures to anticipate, prevent or minimise causes of environmental damage, or that will limit any adverse effects.

Our Commitments

Energy

We encourage any of our staff who work from home to source 100% of their electricity from renewable energy suppliers who are active in creating new renewable energy generation.

Auditing and reporting

The Trustees will annually review environmental performance and how we have met the commitments outlined in this policy (suggested data that can be included is below).



Seeking Net Zero

We will seek to reduce our environmental impact and greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible, working towards net-zero as technology and cost allows. As part of this, we will set annual targets to do this using a baseline first environmental audit.

Areas of application

We are committed to applying these principles in the following areas:

Staff, volunteers and members of the church

All trustees, staff, volunteers and church members will be informed about this policy. We will communicate our biblical understanding of responsibility to God for all that is entrusted to us through creation and the links between poverty, wealth and environmental degradation.

Travel

We are committed to minimising unnecessary travel and encouraging use of the least polluting means of transport. We will prioritise the use of public transport and bicycles over private cars. Air travel is generally not appropriate for church business and would normally require Leadership Team agreement.

We will use video software whenever appropriate rather than travel and face-to-face meeting.

Finance

We will seek to use ethical banking and will not invest or deal with companies or organisations whose activities significantly conflict with our own environmental policy.

Waste

We are committed to reducing, re-using and recycling waste as far as practically possible and offering our recycling centre to the wider community. This includes avoiding the purchase of products and packaging that use non-recyclable and non-biodegradable materials.

Paper

We will use recycled paper wherever feasible, and otherwise use paper derived from sustainably managed forests.

We will continue our shift to electronic filing (e.g. Google Drive) where possible, to reduce paper use.

Food and drink

We will encourage practical application of Green Christian's LOAF principles – local, organic, animal-friendly and fairly traded – at all meetings that involve the purchase and consumption of food and drink.

Procurement

We have a separate Ethical Procurement Policy which sets out that our procurement decisions will minimise negative environmental impacts, where



feasible, and will aim to encourage positive action by suppliers and partners. Strong preference will be given to suppliers who take environmental responsibility seriously.

Buildings and Office Space

We are committed to minimising energy consumption in the church's worship and other spaces through responsible use of heating, cooling, lighting, ventilation, water use and office equipment.

Policy management and monitoring

We are committed to developing and monitoring the implementation of this policy. The ongoing development and monitoring of the policy will be the responsibility of the Leadership Team who will review this policy as appropriate.

Charitable Giving

We are committed that a portion of our charitable giving will go toward charities that care for the environment or to support those who are adversely affected by climate change.

Lettings

We have a separate Lettings Policy which emphasises our environmental stance to those hiring/using the building including use of plastic and recycling requirements.

Water use

We will avoid wasting water and use a water meter. We will check for leakages, fit water minimising systems to taps and cisterns wherever practicable.

Churchyard

We have a separate Land Management Policy which details our management of church land, and the land we take responsibility for.

Sustainable lifestyle

We will conduct an annual 'Lifestyle' survey of our church members to highlight practical lifestyle actions that can be taken. Information will be shared via newsletters and social media.

Throughout the year we will share information, stories and examples of lifestyle action to encourage individual members of our congregations to take actions in their personal lives to care for God's creation.

Worship and Teaching

We will offer opportunities for more in depth study of the environment through our sermon series and small group studies

Fabric

Through the annual fabric review and quinquennial review we will monitor the up-keep of the building and ensure repairs are undertaken in a timely manner.

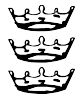


Diocese of Bristol
Annual Reporting

	2023	2024	2025	2026
KwH electricity used				
KwH of gas used				
Any staff mileage / fuel paid for or used				
The actual annual energy carbon footprint of the church – (Result of 360 carbon)				
Annual recycling rate (as a percentage from amount of un-recycled + recycled waste produced)				
Percentage of paper and publications that were printed on recycled paper during the year.				

Action Plan 2024

Category	Action point	Tasks	Person(s) responsible	Date to be achieved
General	Carry out 2023 audit	Complete audit table above		End Jan 2024
Worship and Teaching	Review Worship and Teaching	Create annual planner for sermon series/small group studies Review Junior Church material and and integration of creation care		
Finance	Switch from HSBC to alternative bank	Research banks and compare		End 2024
Fabric	Conduct quinquennial inspection	Identify peron(s) to conduct survey		End 2024



Diocese of Bristol

Date policy adopted:

Review date:

Eco Lead on Leadership Team: