

## PARISH OF THE ASCENSION: ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

As a church with responsibilities in the community, the Parochial Church Council will,

- take environmental concerns fully into account in our care of the church buildings and churchyard and in carrying out the different activities that we undertake.
- undertake an 'environmental audit' of our premises and property, make a list of the most significant aspects of the natural world for which we are responsible, and devise appropriate plans to care for them. We will keep these plans under review, and undertake to revise them at the same time as our quinquennial reviews take place.
- consider the environmental impact of all our policies and plans, and accept that additional costs may be incurred by minimizing that impact
- support the work of local and national environmental organisations, as appropriate
- pay attention to environmental concerns in our banking and investment practice, and continue to pay regard to the Church of England's national ethical investment policy
- encourage environmentally-friendly forms of transport (walk, cycle, public transport), share cars, keep journeys to meeting venues short wherever possible, and keep fossil fuel emissions as low as we can
- look for economies in energy consumption by,
  - using thermostats to keep temperatures down
  - improving the lagging of our pipes
  - removing or replacing covers that reduce the efficiency of radiators
  - fitting low-energy light bulbs
  - improving insulation and draught-proofing all outside doors
  - turning off electrical appliances when not in use
  - seek ways to reduce the impact of our activities, wherever feasible, by using email
  - using recycled paper
  - reusing and repairing wood and other items
  - recycling waste and taking it to collection points
  - using low-environmental impact cleaning materials (avoiding chlorine-based and phosphate-rich powders)
  - minimizing the use of non-degradable materials and items
  - not using artificial fertilisers and pesticides
  - using wood from sustainable sources
- assess the value of our land and property for wildlife, and manage them to conserve biodiversity
- encourage the use of locally sourced flowers, hedgerow or garden greenery when decorating the church
- seek to purchase food and drink that meets the LOAF principles (Locally sourced, Organically-grown, Animal-friendly, Fairly-traded)
- avoid over- catering, and use seasonal foods, avoid using water unnecessarily.

This policy is reviewed annually.