



Environmental Policy

'In the beginning God created...' (Genesis 1:1)

Our mission calling to care for the earth comes from our faith in God as creator and sustainer of all life. We are stewards of creation, responsible for all that God has made, and so a concern for the environment and a just sharing of the world's resources are fundamental gospel commitments. This is a part of the journey we make towards and with God as Christian Disciples.

VISION STATEMENT

Our faith

We believe that God...

1. created and continues to create the whole universe
2. sustains and nurtures creation
3. through Christ, wills to redeem the whole of creation from its bondage to decay
4. entrusts creation to our care, allowing us to have dominion over it
5. calls us to be partners in His ongoing creative, renewing and redeeming activity
6. commands us to act justly and in righteousness not only towards our fellow human beings, but to all creation
7. requires us to care for creation so that future generations, whom God also loves, can enjoy it and benefit from it.

Our mission

We affirm that Christian mission includes caring for God's earth and of all creation. It includes sharing in putting right the relationships within God's creation that have gone wrong, and growing towards justice and good stewardship envisaged in the biblical vision of the world as it is meant to be.

Our care of creation

We believe that human activity has contributed to the degradation of the earth in its land, seas and atmosphere, and that this is not the will of God. We believe that this degradation limits the attainment of the fullness of life that God wills for all creation, and is a sin for which we should seek forgiveness. It also imposes most heavily upon the peoples of the developing countries of the world and is part of the intrinsic injustice to which we bear witness.

Our calling

In fulfilling our commitment to continue the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ, we covenant together to care for the earth by following sustainable practice and by taking into account global and local environmental considerations for present and future generations

- ✓ in the conservation and use of resources in the church and at home
- ✓ in living in a more sustainable lifestyle.
- ✓ in active involvement in community initiatives aimed at sustaining and renewing the environment.
- ✓ in concerns for action on global environmental issues.

Our commitment

To this end we should have regard to

- ✓ the challenge of meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
- ✓ the potential for harnessing the skills, expertise and enthusiasm of the members of our congregation.
- ✓ the opportunities for co-operation in joint initiatives with others both locally and on a wider scale.
- ✓ the actions in one place that may have an effect in other places.
- ✓ the valuable contribution of small steps by individuals as well as major initiatives.

‘To the Lord belong the earth and everything in it, the world and all its inhabitants’ Ps 24:1

Our Environmental Objectives

In order to work out our faith and fulfil our responsibility for the stewardship of God’s creation, we commit ourselves to the following actions.

1. Awareness and Commitment

- ✓ to promote awareness amongst the fellowship of these principles and objectives and of the values underlying them by having a Stewardship Sunday each year where we focus on the biblical teaching about the earth and our responsibilities towards it.
- ✓ to ensure that all church members are familiar with this environmental commitment and its objectives, and encourage them to work towards its implementation.
- ✓ to encourage one another in all our activities to comply with all relevant environmental recommendations for good practice

2. Energy and Water

- ✓ to ensure energy is used efficiently and wherever possible reduce its use
- ✓ to encourage the increased use of renewable energy both at home and in church.
- ✓ to use water efficiently and with care, avoiding unnecessary waste.
- ✓ to avoid pollutants entering the drainage system.

3. Waste

- ✓ to reduce the production of material waste including unnecessary packaging.
- ✓ to encourage re-use, repair and recycling of materials including organic waste.
- ✓ to dispose of waste in a safe and responsible way.

Materials and Resources

- ✓ to buy products which are made in accordance with the principle of using material in a sustainable way and to use locally-made goods as far as this is possible and practicable.
- ✓ to buy products from sources that adhere to principles of fair trade with those within poorer countries.
- ✓ to take into account the lifetime costs of materials when repairing, altering or rebuilding premises.
- ✓ to maximise the proportion of paper used from sustainable sources and recycled materials.
- ✓ to offer electronic communication as an alternative to paper for those who are suitably equipped.

Natural and Built Environment

- ✓ to take appropriate opportunities to conserve and enhance the natural and built environment of Horsham.
- ✓ to engage with local planning developments where these affect the environment.
- ✓ to be sensitive to the impact of church activities on the local environment.

Travel

- ✓ to make every effort to reduce air pollution and energy consumption resulting from the use of the car by avoidance of unnecessary travel and the use of energy-efficient vehicles.
- ✓ to encourage the use of cycles and public transport.
- ✓ to share car transport wherever possible.

We set out this policy as a challenge to ourselves to keep in sight our responsibility before God for all he has entrusted to us.

We set aside a Sunday each year as a reminder to ourselves and to enable us to promote the practical steps above.

We commit to give a copy of this policy to all new members as part of their welcome pack.

We have set a review date to ensure we maintain focus in the longer term and respond to the developing circumstances and opportunities the future holds.

Date created	May 2010
Dates of reviews	7 th February 2012
	10 th June 2020