



PARISH of Abingdon on Thames

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

It is the policy of the PCC to

1. recognise the whole of creation as God's work and integral to God's salvation plan, and to value it accordingly;
2. be good environmental stewards, incorporating care for creation into all aspects of church life.

Signed S Scott
 Lay Chair

Date 30 July 2024

THE PCC AGREES THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES TO IMPLEMENT THE ABOVE POLICY:

WE commit to

Undertaking regular reviews of our energy use and the energy efficiency of our buildings, and considering ways in which energy use can be reduced or made more sustainable.

Reviewing progress in implementation of changes and practices that have been identified as ways to improve energy efficiency and reducing the carbon footprint in all of our facilities, such as installation of low-energy light bulbs, solar panels, insulation, and efficient heating systems where possible, while also recognising the limitations inherent in listed ancient buildings.

Considering and where possible implementing measures to promote environmentally-friendly lifestyles, such as the provision of secure cycle parking at our church buildings or the creation of Sunday ride-share schemes.

Managing churchyards and our other open spaces to be wildlife-friendly, eliminating, as soon as is practical, the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides where these are currently used, and in future refraining from their use, and incorporating into our green spaces plants beneficial to pollinators, birds, and other animal wildlife.

Using environmentally-friendly cleaning products and office products, such as recycled paper, in all of our buildings, replacing existing products with environmentally-friendly alternatives as and when supplies need to be replaced.

Participating in local authority recycling and food waste collection schemes, and, where possible and appropriate, on-site composting of suitable food waste.

Taking into consideration the environmental policies of potential suppliers and contractors when making purchases or contracting for services (including building works).

Supporting sustainable farming practices through the use of LOAF (local, organic, animal-friendly and fair trade) foodstuffs at church functions where the church provides food and drink, and raising awareness of the LOAF principle among our congregations and encouraging congregation members to consider using LOAF products when contributing to church functions.

Promoting sustainable and animal-friendly eating practices and extending hospitality by always providing vegetarian and vegan options at church functions and reducing the use of meat and dairy products.

Regularly including environmental care and the theology underlying this in our cycle of prayer and preaching.

Appointing an Eco-Champion in each church, responsible to the DCC, to oversee and monitor progress of the implementation of the above policy and procedures and our participation in the Eco-Church scheme.

Note: some wording has been amended to more closely reflect the wording of the Eco-Church survey to allow for closer matching between policy and Eco-Church surveys

Procedures agreed: 17 March 2025