



ENVIRONMENT POLICY - CENTRAL OFFICES

Version: October 2021

1 Policy Statement: Care of Creation

The Diocese of Arundel & Brighton embraces effective action in response to the current climate crisis and Pope Francis' call for us all to care for our common home in his document Laudato Si. The Diocese recognises the interdependence of care for the world and care for our neighbours. The Trustees commit to engaging with environmental advisers, and the framework developed by the A&B Journey to 2030 Working Group, and to reviewing this policy annually. The commitments in this policy apply to the teams of the central Diocesan offices

2 Procurement of Energy

We source gas and electricity for parish and central properties from Inter-Diocesan Fuel Management (IFM), a Catholic mutual which sources energy from green sources. Together with ChurchMarketplace, another Catholic mutual owned by the dioceses of England and Wales, which increases our collective purchasing power, we rely on these partners to help us find solutions that will enable the transition to a carbon neutral future. Currently, 100% of the electricity supply is from green sources, and over 70% of the gas supply comes from the by-product of biological processes, with the remainder being offset. As the biogas market expands, we expect that 100% of our gas supply will come from green sources.

3 Ethical investment policy

Our investment portfolio excludes companies that produce or refine fossil fuels. Our investment manager Berenberg seeks to maximise the social impact of our investments by supporting companies whose activities align with UN Sustainable Development Goals. This partnership will continue to be reviewed in the context of the Laudato Si' Goals.

4 Energy efficiency

Building projects undertaken for Central Diocesan properties are designed to improve the energy efficiency of our properties. Actions to improve insulation, heat retention and the amount of energy used for lighting are implemented wherever projects allow this. Parishes commissioning their five year property inspection survey (Quinquennial) should instruct that the report identifies actions to improve the energy efficiency of premises, in addition to planned maintenance requirements.

5 Project approvals

The Diocesan Finance Committee approves parish property projects on behalf of the Trustees and oversees capital allocation to schools. Parishes and schools proposing to undertake projects are asked to consider sustainability, and to seek specialist advice where necessary. Energy audits are recommended.

6 Staff support and remuneration

The Diocese supports the Real Living Wage and operates a centralised payroll to ensure that all staff retained within parishes and central offices receive the minimum hourly rate recommended by the Living Wage Foundation.

7 Travel policies

Where possible, all staff are encouraged to use public transport. The Diocese aims to encourage staff who rely on cars to consider switching to electric or hybrid models by offering free charging points at The St Philip Howard Centre. This office will also provide a shower for those choosing to run or cycle to work.

The Diocese also supports our staff with flexible working arrangements and the technological means to work remotely enables us to reduce our carbon footprint caused by commuting by car. Where appropriate, meetings are offered in online or blended form, to reduce the need to commute to meetings by road. Training will be offered to support virtual meetings.

8 Procurement and Waste Management

Central staff responsible for procurement of consumables are to be guided by the following expectations:

- Recycled paper should be used by default
- Single-use plastics should be avoided wherever possible

- Refreshments provided at meetings and events should be Fairtrade and abide by LOAF¹ Principles where this is practical
- Amazon should be avoided where this is practical, instead procuring from local companies or ChurchMarketplace
- Recycling facilities will be provided at all diocesan buildings
- To try to repair rather than buying new

9 Communications

We use all our communications platforms to share information and guidance regarding Care for Creation. This includes:

- Providing links to information, good news stories, and campaigns to encourage engagement with environmental issues by our schools and parishes through newsletter and social media channels.
- Setting up and maintaining a Care of Creation webpage on the A&B Website, with information on how individuals can get involved.

10 A&B Journey to 2030 Working Group

A group of engaged volunteers will continue to convene within the Diocese and to propose further policy and practices. Policies will evolve as technologies change and further opportunities are identified for the Diocese to reduce its carbon footprint and show leadership in this area. This group is developing a Mission Statement on Care of Creation and a Framework for Action to be shared with parishes and schools.

Approval

This policy was approved by the Diocesan Board of Trustees on: 20 October 2021

The next review is due by 31 October 2022

¹ Locally produced, Organically grown, Animal friendly, Fairly traded - see <https://greenchristian.org.uk/gc-campaigns/loaf/> for more details