



DIOCESE OF YORK
Environment Policy

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it (Ps24. 1)

As Christians and as a Christian community we are called to conserve the earth's complex and fragile ecology and to be good stewards of its resources.

We recognise the need to operate in ways that are responsible and sustainable.

We also recognise the significant role we can play in our community by fostering environmental sustainability through our actions and attitudes.

We will therefore:

- Pledge to conduct our business in responsible ways, assessing the environmental impact of our activities and considering ways in which we can minimise any environmental damage we may cause.
- Consider how we might replace present unsustainable systems with more ecologically sustainable and socially just alternatives.
- Encourage all Christians prayerfully to consider and enact lifestyles which promote sustainable, healthy and socially just patterns of consumption for all.

In particular we will:

- Establish a management infrastructure for environmental performance, including the training of staff, regular consultation and audits
- Ensure compliance with all relevant legislation
- Ensure energy is used efficiently and wherever possible reduce its use
- Use appropriate renewable energy resources whenever possible
- Co-operate with Local Authorities' initiatives on recycling
- Dispose of waste in a safe and responsible way
- Where possible to buy products which adhere to principles of fair trade and are locally sourced
- To offer electronic communications as an alternative to paper for those who are suitably equipped
- Take appropriate opportunities to conserve and enhance the natural and built environment of our churches, its other properties and our homes
- Be sensitive to the impact of our activities on the local environment by being responsible neighbours and a good employer
- Seek ways in which to reduce the 'carbon footprint' of the York Diocese / Our Parish / Our homes
- Look for ways in which to educate and stimulate others in awareness of environmental issues and good practice in addressing them

BIODIVERSITY ■ ENERGY ■ TRANSPORT ■ WATER ■ PURCHASING ■ WASTE & RECYCLING

We will regularly review our commitment to the Environment and this policy and develop ways to ensure our objectives and new initiatives are SMART

(Specific, Measurable, Agreed upon, Realistic and Time bound).