

Environmental Policy

Recognising that our world is a gift from God [and that we are called to be stewards](#), the PCC is committed to protecting and actively promoting the improvement of the local environment. To ensure that environmental priorities are integrated into its decisions, it established an ECO Group as a sub-committee of the PCC. With guidance from that group, the PCC will seek to:

1. Ensure that there is regular teaching and publicity in church, home groups, youth and children's groups about the significance of creation and our responsibility before God, individually and collectively, as stewards of creation to protect the environment.
2. Make the most efficient use of energy by endeavouring to economise on use of electricity & gas consistent with the safe & efficient operation of heating, lighting and equipment in each of the properties for which it is responsible. It will monitor energy consumption and eliminate excessive or unnecessary use and periodically review its energy sources and efficiency to minimise environmental impact. It will communicate to staff, hirers & other users the means by which energy may be conserved, e.g. by closing doors/switching off unnecessary lights/avoiding unnecessary printing & photocopying.
3. Use the minimum quantities of water possible in accordance with its activities and ensure that water is supplied & disposed of, in the purest condition possible, to meet statutory requirements. It will reduce leakage and eliminate excessive or unnecessary use e.g. by installing sensor controlled flushing of urinals. It will communicate to staff, hirers & other users the need to conserve water e.g. by turning taps off after use.
4. Avoid waste and encourage the appropriate conservation, re-use & recycling of resources where practicable. Disposal of unavoidable waste will be by a means to have least impact on the environment in accordance with statutory requirements. It will encourage users to minimise waste including the provision of a green bin for segregating recyclable items.
5. Encourage those using its properties, or travelling on its behalf, to walk, cycle, use public transport if available, or join forces in minimising inefficient use of the private car. It will aim to provide safe cycle storage where possible.
6. Minimise and where possible, eliminate all forms of pollution using biodegradable chemicals and minimising use of solvents ~~and lead based paints~~. Users will be encouraged to avoid creating noise pollution at night.
7. It will ensure that the potential environmental impact of any building projects will be assessed & minimised. This will, where possible, include the best use of sustainable resources to ensure low maintenance and high energy efficiency and materials from sustainable sources. It will encourage users to use buildings efficiently to conserve energy and minimise waste.
8. Promote a sense of responsibility and understanding for the environment and participation in environmental issues, by raising ~~staff & user~~ awareness, information provision and open consultation with the [congregation, staff, hall users and](#) community.
9. Where possible and cost effective, use local suppliers in order to maximise support for the community and minimise carbon emissions from unnecessary transport.
10. ~~Protect the health & wellbeing of all staff and visitors to its properties and safeguard the quality of the environment in Cofton Hackett & Barnt Green.~~

12.10. ~~Monitor & review environmental performance~~ performance against the policy annually, ~~identifying and~~ take positive actions that can be taken to make improvements and review to ensure that the policy is still fit for purpose on areas of non-compliance.

Reviewed & adopted by the PCC of Cofton Hackett & Barnt Green - ~~Nov 2018~~ Jan 2020