

DIOCESAN SYNOD

17th March 2007

DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

- 1 We affirm the Diocese's commitment to the fifth mark of mission "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the earth" * and we will endeavour to develop the theology and practical implications of this on an on-going basis
- 2 We recognise the interdependence and value of all God's creation and as stewards we will endeavour to take a lead in serving its needs
- 3 We will take our environmental footprint properly into account in our mission, worship, study, education, training, pastoral, administrative and other programmes and projects. We will review our environmental footprint on a regular basis, mindful of the environmental policy objectives set out at the end of this policy
- 4 We will encourage an awareness of environmental issues in our local community whether urban or rural and throughout the diocese
- 5 We will foster an awareness of environmental legislation and offer assistance by seeking appropriate information to keep abreast of current thinking and to identify proven good practice
- 6 We will encourage and facilitate environmental monitoring of our premises and property
- 7 We will consider the environmental impact of all our future plans, to promote long-term benefits and more sustainable lifestyles
- 8 We will encourage all who live and work within the diocese to consider their personal impact on the environment, both in their church and daily lives, and use stewardship of the environment as a focus of Christian mission.
- 9 We will co-operate with other churches, faith and community groups in environmental initiatives
- 10 We will share information and experience with link parishes and dioceses throughout the world

* From the *Five Marks of Mission* adopted by the 1988 Lambeth Conference

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ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OBJECTIVES

Awareness and Commitment

- to promote awareness within the Diocese of these principles and objectives and of the values underlying them
- to ensure that Diocesan employees and office holders are familiar with and implement this environmental commitment and its objectives
- to ensure that Diocesan activities comply with all relevant environmental regulations

Energy and Water

- to ensure energy is used efficiently and wherever possible reduce its use
- to encourage the increased use of renewable energy
- to seek to avoid light pollution
- to use water efficiently and with care
- to avoid pollutants entering the drainage system

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 where practicable
- to take into account the 'whole life' 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
- to show concern for the environmental quality of food production systems and the equitable global distribution of food

Natural and Built Environment

- to take appropriate opportunities to conserve and enhance the natural and built environment
- to be aware of local planning developments
- to be sensitive to the impact of church activities on the local environment

Travel

- to make every effort to reduce travel-related air pollution and energy consumption
- to undertake the work of the Church in ways which reduce the need for travel particularly by air and car
- to encourage travel where possible by public transport, cycle and on foot and where car transport is necessary to try to share it
- to support the expansion of good quality public transport, the provision of improved facilities for cyclists and pedestrians and local Green Travel Programmes.