



# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

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## Declaration of a Climate Emergency

From our deep concern for God's creation, we note:

- the stark warning from the world's scientific community that there are just 10 years left to prevent 1.5 degrees warming
- that warming beyond 1.5 degrees represents a threat to the future of humanity, and that even warming limited to that level will wreak havoc upon the livelihoods of countless people across the world
- that warming beyond 1.5 degrees will have a profound impact on the biodiversity of our planet

We acknowledge that that an urgent and rapid global response is now necessary.

We welcome the fact that solutions to alleviate the climate crisis are widely available including renewable technology, sustainable transport options and zero-carbon buildings.

We support the decisions of governments, councils and organisations across Wales to pass motions declaring a climate emergency and setting net zero carbon emissions targets for their local areas.

We should endeavour to reach a net zero carbon emission position for the activities of the Church in Wales as soon as is practically possible.

We ask that an action plan be prepared within one year that will set out how the whole of the Church in Wales can reach a net zero carbon emission position with our aspiration that this shall be achieved by 2030.



# Environmental Policy

## THEOLOGY

1. The earth is the Lord's; we are created with the earth and as part of the cosmos (Genesis 1)
2. Humanity has been given stewardship of Creation (Genesis 1.28), to care for it (Genesis 2.15), but our selfishness means we tread heavily on other people and on Creation, treating neither with respect. We are not consumers of what God has made; we are in communion with it.
3. The prophets looked forward to a time when humankind and the natural world would once again live in harmony with each other (Isaiah 11.6-9). St Paul sees redemption on a cosmic scale (Romans 8.18-25). Our redemption is not complete until it includes all of Creation. (Revelation 21, 1-5a.)
4. Lambeth Declaration 2015: the urgent need to address climate change, created by rich nations, but experienced more damagingly by poorer people and poorer nations.
5. Laudato Si, 2015. Loving our neighbour means caring for the earth, our common home. The cry of the earth and the cry of the poor are linked

## PRINCIPLES: ANGLICAN MARKS OF MISSION

6. **To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom:** Respect for Creation is integral to authentic Christian living. We celebrate it, because it testifies to the glory of God, and is something to be valued in its own right, independent of any benefit that people derive from it.
7. **To teach, baptise and nurture new believers:** to promote environmental mindfulness as an intrinsic part of Christian life.
8. **To respond to human need by loving service:** The Diocese acknowledges in penitence the damage our way of life has done, and is still doing, to the richness of God's Creation throughout the world, and resolves to encourage a pattern of living in the local community by treading lightly on the earth while mitigating the effects of climate change globally.
9. **To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation:** by seeking to value the 'free' nature of environmental resources and challenging the economic structures that take advantage of this at Creation's expense.
10. **To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth:** Establishing the Diocese's environmental footprint by auditing our Church buildings, parsonages, Church schools, and transport in order to plan and develop an action plan to improve environmental performance.

## OBJECTIVES

11. The Diocese agrees to work to transform our lives according to these principles, as a diocese, as deaneries, parishes, church schools and individual Christian disciples, to live simply in order that others may simply live:



- 11.1. **Objective 1.** Reduce carbon emissions from diocesan buildings and travel to net zero by 2030.
- 11.2. **Objective 2.** Encourage and support churches/parishes to work towards net zero by 2030 by:
- 11.2.1. Reducing energy usage in churches, schools and other buildings, including 100% LED lighting by 2025, improving insulation and glazing.
  - 11.2.2. Switching to green energy supplies: green electricity to 50% by end of 2021, 75% by end of 2023, and 100% by end of 2025; and green gas to 10% by the end of 2021; 50% by 2023; 75% by 2025. This would include plans to decarbonise, moving off oil and gas as heating fuels by 2030, appropriate installation of renewable energy generation on church land and buildings, and offsetting the remainder.
  - 11.2.3. Reducing travel, food miles and waste;
- 11.3. **Objective 3.** To be recognized by Arocha UK as an Eco Diocese, at Bronze level by the end of 2020, and subsequently at Silver and Gold levels. This will require a proportion<sup>1</sup> of the diocese's churches to become Eco Churches. Rather than a one-off award it is about Christian discipleship and an ongoing pilgrimage as the People of God.
- 11.4. **Objective 4.** To encourage all within the Communion of the Church in Wales in Llandaff, and those with whom we work in partnership, to live sustainably with creation:
- 11.4.1. Encouraging parishioners to think globally and act locally by flying less, driving less, buying less; buying local produce in season; recycling and avoiding single use packaging;
  - 11.4.2. Making linkages between Church in Wales schools (and where possible Community Schools) and churches to share the distinctly Christian reasons for caring for creation, and to incorporate teaching on climate issues in schools;
  - 11.4.3. Promoting / being actively involved in local community green initiatives and activities;
  - 11.4.4. Supporting, campaigning and political encouragement for change at local and national levels to address climate issues.
- 11.5. **Objective 5.** To ensure that all financial investments are divested from climate damaging activities by 2030
- 11.6. **Objective 6.** To develop a strategic plan to ensure that church land is managed in a sustainable and climate friendly manner including:
- 11.6.1. Using appropriate land for tree planting;
  - 11.6.2. Encouraging and supporting organic farming practices where appropriate;
  - 11.6.3. Adopting practices to increase biodiversity;
  - 11.6.4. Using land for renewable energy generation where appropriate;

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<sup>1</sup> Bronze Eco Diocese: 10% of local churches registered; 5% of local churches awarded  
Silver Eco Diocese: 20% of local churches registered; 10% of local churches awarded  
Gold Eco Diocese: 30% of local churches registered; 20% of local churches awarded



11.6.5. Allowing land to be used for flood mitigation and sustainable river management schemes where appropriate.

## KEY ENABLERS

12. The Senior Leadership Team has approved the attached draft Action Plan for becoming an Eco Diocese, acknowledging that plans are flexible and change to respond as required to a changing context. Becoming an Eco Diocese is an integral part of our Diocesan Vision. Accordingly, the Diocese is resolved to:
- a. Make living harmoniously with Creation an integral part of worship, prayer, ministry training, teaching on discipleship and management of all Diocesan and parochial resources<sup>2</sup>;
  - b. Empower and support lay members of congregations to play a key part in leading the changes that are needed.
  - c. Advocate for the changes that need to be made by government, the economy, and society as a whole.
  - d. Develop an action plan for achieving the 2030 net zero emissions target.
  - e. Make Care for Creation, and climate change an integral part of the Diocesan Vision implementation plan and the work of the Diocesan Parsonage Board, Care of Churches Department; IME, CMD and Lay Training.
  - f. Regularly feature care for creation, cutting carbon emissions, and progress towards becoming an Eco Diocese in *Croeso*, *Llandaff Matters*, and other Diocesan communications.
  - g. Issue the best environmental policies, practice, initiatives and advice to parishes, encourage them to gain Eco Church awards and commit themselves to targets for cutting carbon emissions.
  - h. Include progress on Eco Church awards, and on cutting carbon emissions in Archdeacons' reports and Archdeacons' visitations.
  - i. Report Progress on the Plans annually to the Senior Leadership Team and Diocesan Conference Standing Committee, and to Diocesan Conference every two years. Plans to be reviewed and updated as appropriate.
  - j. Review and update this environmental policy every three years.

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<sup>2</sup> Buildings, land, income and investments



## Next Steps

- a) The DBF has noted the “Declaration of Climate Emergency” that the DSC has approved as a Diocesan Declaration.
- b) The DBF has approved the “Environmental Policy” as official Diocesan policy and adopt it as a DBF Policy.
- c) The Property Committee will take ownership of this policy, to review it annually and monitor its implementation.
- d) The Declaration and Policy will be published in diocesan communications and the SLT, Eco group and diocesan staff will incorporate the action plan in future work.



## DELIVERING ACTION FOR ZERO CARBON

The cross can be used as a framework for each part of the church to think about and plan the actions it can take to reach a net zero carbon position.





## Annex 1: Progress to December 2020

- a. **Objective 1.** To be recognized by Arocha UK as an Eco Diocese, at Bronze level by the end of 2020.

Llandaff Diocese is registered as an Eco Diocese and currently has 38 of our 224 churches registered: that is 17 % of the total and 15 have an award which is 6% of the total. We currently exceed the number of registered churches for the bronze award. Application will be submitted when Policy is approved.

- b. **Objective 2.** Reduce carbon emissions from diocesan buildings, travel and administration to net zero by 2030.

Diocesan staff are analysing the carbon footprint and developing a plan to work towards net zero.

- c. **Objective 3.** Encourage churches/parishes to work towards net zero by 2030:

The Diocese is seeking expert advice and support from Inspired Efficiency energy consultants to achieve net carbon zero, including energy audits of each church building as part of the MA Property Review that each Ministry Area will undertake. Environmental stories, resources and awareness are included in diocesan communications plans.

- (1) Switching to green energy supplies: 10% by the end of 2021; 50% by 2023; 75% by 2025.
- (2) Encouraging parishioners to think globally and act locally by flying less, driving less, buying less; buying local produce in season; recycling and avoiding single use packaging.
- (3) Making linkages between C in W schools (and where possible Community Schools) and churches to share the distinctly Christian reasons for caring for creation.

All of our Church in Wales schools have achieved the equivalent level of eco award many at platinum level. The link between schools and churches will be one of the opportunities for development enabled by our Young Faith Matters programme.

- (4) Promoting / being actively involved in local community green initiatives and activities.





## Annex 2: Action plan for Llandaff to become an Eco Diocese

Draft 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020

*“The Christian reason for regarding ecology as a matter of justice is that God’s self-sharing love is what animates every object and structure and situation in the world. Responses to the world that are unaware of this are neither truthful nor sustainable. To be aware of this is to enter into relationship, for the self-sharing love of God is not simply something we admire, but something in which we fully participate. We are not consumers of what God has made; we are in communion with it.”* Rowan Williams <sup>3</sup>

### PRINCIPLES

- Caring for Creation is integral to authentic Christian living and our covenant responsibility to God, the planet and our fellow creatures
- Becoming an Eco Church contributes to the building up of a congregation’s life and its witness in its local community, part of Christian discipleship and an ongoing pilgrimage as the People of God
- Eco Church/Diocese is a collaborative endeavour and ministry requiring the joint leadership and initiative of laity and clergy
- Becoming an Eco Diocese is therefore an integral part of the Diocesan Vision

#### **Eco Diocese Criterion 1: A diocese will have registered its intent to become an Eco Diocese**

Action Completed.

#### **Eco Diocese Criterion 2: A diocese will have commissioned group to coordinate progress, share learning, and disseminate environmental news within the diocese**

**Eco Diocese Criterion 3: Our diocese will have written an environmental policy** that has been agreed by the Senior Leadership Team and Diocesan Standing Committee (this should include points on travel, the environmental maintenance of vicarages, and a commitment to reducing diocesan carbon emissions)

The overall Diocesan Environmental Policy has been drafted for DSC review on 12<sup>th</sup> November. Diocese has commissioned Matt Fulford of Inspired Efficiency to work with staff and committees on the development of several inter linked policies: the overall Diocese Environment Policy, a DAC Environment Policy, a Schools Environment Policy, a Parsonages Environment Policy, and a Board of Finance Environment Policy.

#### **Eco Diocese Criterion 4: A diocese will have gained the appropriate levels of local church registrations and Awards for Eco Church**

- **Bronze** Eco Diocese: 10% of local churches registered; 5% of local churches awarded **Achieved**
- **Silver** Eco Diocese: 20% of local churches registered; 10% of local churches awarded
- **Gold** Eco Diocese: 30% of local churches registered; 20% of local churches awarded
  - Progress on becoming an Eco Church will be included in Parish Reports, in Archdeacons’ reports and in Archdeacons’ visitations. Archdeacons and Area Deans will encourage churches to gain Eco Church awards.

<sup>3</sup> Foreword to ‘Sharing God’s Planet, a Christian vision for a sustainable future.’



- The Diocesan Outreach and Young People's teams will make Care for Creation, including climate change specifically, an integral part of their work.
- Care for Creation, and progress towards becoming an Eco Diocese, will feature regularly online, in *Croeso* and social media.
- The Diocesan Communications team will work with the Bishop's office to identify opportunities for the Bishop to have a suitable profile on Care for Creation and Eco Diocese.

**Eco Diocese Criterion 5: A diocese will have achieved the relevant Eco Church Award level in relation to its Diocesan Office and Land.**

**Eco Diocese Criterion 6: A diocese will have embedded environmental issues within the curricula of its ongoing ministerial education**

- The Diocesan Director of Ministry will make Care for Creation and environmental issues integral both to initial training and ongoing development of clergy
- The Eco group have suggested for there to be a short session in a CMD day once a year, to update clergy on progress towards becoming an Eco Diocese, to discuss issues clergy wish to raise and to update them on new developments on climate change in particular.
- Eco Church should feature in Initial Ministerial Training as curates may be responsible for Eco Church in parishes. This is to be discussed with the new Director of Ministry and Development and in liaison with St Padarn's Institute.

**Eco Diocese Criterion 7: A diocese will have managed diocesan investments ethically** in line with the ethical policies of the Church in Wales investment committee, including on climate change, guided by the recommendations of the Ethical Investment Advisory Group. ([This is ongoing business](#))

**Eco Diocese Criterion 8: A diocese will have worked with other Dioceses and/or faith groups to encourage greater environmental action, including promoting Eco Church as a helpful tool**

- The Diocesan Communications Team will gather exemplars of how local churches have worked locally with other Christian denominations and/or with other faith groups.

**Eco Diocese Criterion 9: A diocese will celebrate individual environmental initiatives**

- The Diocesan Communications Team will feature good news stories on social media.
- Bishop, Archdeacons and Area Deans will play their part in celebrating initiatives and achievements.

**Underpinning Action: Lay Involvement and Networking**

- The active participation and local leadership of laity is essential to progress and indeed is implicit in the church embracing "collaborative ministry." Enabling laity and their gifts is a key strand of clergy leadership at all levels. Accordingly, diocesan communications will highlight and celebrate the role that laity are playing.
- As part of encouraging lay people to get involved, the Eco Group have recommended: organise events each year for lay people and clergy working on Eco Church and care for creation to gather together, to worship and share ideas and experience. The Eco Group is thinking how best to go about this including:
  - Eco pilgrimages to examples of best practice and eco originality.
  - An informal forum that meets regularly to exchange ideas, share resources, celebrate progress and to review theological and ecological resources including books, DVDs, and subject matter experts.



- One day eco-retreats that might include prayer walks, forest church type services /celebrations, viewing flora, fauna and natural phenomenae.
- Enabling Eco Church celebrations including help with liturgical, musical and theological resources.

## SUMMARY OF 'WHO DOES WHAT'

### Bishop, Archdeacons and Area Deans

- Bishop, Archdeacons and Area Deans will play their part in celebrating initiatives and achievements.
- Archdeacons will make progress on becoming an Eco Church an integral part of Ministry Area reviews, Archdeacons' reports and Archdeacons' visitations (or equivalent as Ministry Areas are developed).
- Archdeacons and Area Deans will encourage churches to gain Eco Church awards.

### Diocesan Office

- Diocesan Secretary will arrange for his office to complete the simple online form to register Llandâf to work for Eco Diocese [Completed](#).
- Diocesan Officers to submit final text of the diocesan environmental policy to the Bishop and Senior Leadership Team for agreement, and subsequently to the Standing Committee [Completed](#).

### Diocesan Communications Team

- The Diocesan Communications Team will gather exemplars of churches achieving Eco Church and of environmental initiatives generally and feature them in social media. [Completed and Ongoing](#)
- The Diocesan Communications Team will gather inspiring stories of how local churches have worked locally with other Christian denominations and/or with other faith groups. [Completed and Ongoing](#)
- Care for Creation, and progress towards becoming an Eco Diocese, will feature in *Croeso* and other Diocesan communications. [Completed and Ongoing](#)
- The Diocesan Communications team will work with the Bishop's office to identify opportunities for the Bishop to have a suitable profile on Care for Creation and Eco Diocese.

### Environmental Panel

- A group will be established, led by the current Eco group and including representatives from all deaneries, to gather best practices and resources and facilitate networking across the diocese.

All Diocesan groups and Ministry Areas will be encouraged to make Care for Creation, including climate change specifically, an integral part of its work.



## Annex 3: Provincial carbon net zero plan

### THE CHURCH IN WALES – NET ZERO CARBON

This report has been prepared for both the GB Standing Committee and the CHASE group. The report has been shared with the Bench of Bishops who asked that it be discussed with both bodies.

I believe the Church in Wales is at a crucial point in terms of developing its response to climate change. Like the whole world, the Church in Wales needs to make a definite and binding commitment to reach a position where our activities do not add to global emissions. This is often called Net Zero Carbon. Net Zero can be defined as ***'balancing the amount of emitted greenhouse gases with the equivalent emissions that are either offset or sequestered.'***<sup>4</sup>

In other words, achieving net zero means that whilst we may still produce some greenhouse gas emissions, these will be offset by other measures. This seems a sensible approach for the Church in Wales.

The attached paper is a simple action plan to enable us to move forward in a practical way to achieve a plan as to how we might reach a net zero carbon position. By spending some time planning, we can ascertain likely costs (and sources of finance) and timescales (and the significant hurdles we will face).

Both Standing Committee and CHASE are asked to review the report and support its key recommendations:

1. That the Church in Wales declares a Climate Emergency as soon as possible. Such declarations could be made at all levels of the Church but must include the Governing Body. A draft declaration has been included at Appendix 1.

This declaration can be made available across the Church so that any committee or church body can use it accordingly.

Given the challenges around holding a full Governing Body at this time, it would be useful to have views on when this might be considered by the GB.

2. That we develop two key working groups.
  - a. HUB: to act as a coordinating and communication group across the whole of the Church in Wales. Logically, CHASE could be this hub providing feedback and input into the development of the Action Plan.
  - b. LAB: to look at the technical and financial issues that will need to be addressed to consider detailed solutions. This will need a mixture of property, technical and financial experts.
3. That the Representative Body be asked commit resources to enable an action plan to be prepared within one year that will set out how the whole of the Church in Wales can reach a net zero carbon emission position with our aspiration that this shall be achieved by 2030.

**Alex Glanville**  
**Head of Property Services**  
**Representative Body of the Church in Wales**  
**30<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.edie.net/definition/Net-zero/232>



## The Church in Wales Reaching Net Zero Carbon

### ***Introduction***

The UK and Welsh Government have pledged for the nations to reach 'net zero carbon' by 2050. Even if the Church in Wales does nothing, we will have to radically change our approach to the environment particularly energy use and transport over the next 30 years.

As the Church is not a single, corporate body any policy will need to be based on encouragement and advice backed up by policies and assistance that drive the different parts of the church in this direction. The principal organisations within the Church – Representative Body and Diocesan Boards of Finance – have a key role in facilitating this change and, importantly, setting an example to all parts of the Church.

This document attempts to give a high-level road map for how we plan the necessary changes.

### ***Step 1: Vision***

The Church must, as a whole Church, make some commitment to the zero-carbon goal. This is challenging as making bold pronouncements to achieve certain things by a certain time which are un-specified and un-costed can be counter-productive. However, the whole church must acknowledge the climate emergency and agree that zero carbon is a requirement not an option.

Many governments, Councils and organisations have declared a climate emergency. Such a declaration by the Church in Wales would signal intent and would carry with it a commitment to develop an action plan. A draft declaration is attached at Appendix 1. Such a declaration would need to be made by the Governing Body on behalf of the whole of the Church in Wales.

It is vital that the key church organisations of Representative Body and Diocesan Boards of Finance endorse that declaration too. However, there is no reason why any board or committee at any level of the Church should not make such a declaration. The declaration can be promoted as something all parts of the Church might like to consider.

At this stage it might not be necessary to set a firm date by which we will achieve net zero. Clearly, 'the sooner the better' but a clear target date could be developed under step 3 below.

### ***Step 2: Create the mechanism to create an action plan***

If the Church is to progress this agenda it will need to gather information, promote the agenda and develop solutions. To do this it is suggested we establish two new groups:



- The Church in Wales Zero Carbon HUB: this will gather information from across the church, identify key challenges, promote the agenda and connect people across the Church and outside in developing the response. Put simply, the HUB will identify what we need (dream dreams). The Hub would develop out of the CHASE group with strong input from Eco Church and Eco Diocese teams.
- The Church in Wales Zero Carbon LAB: this will create solutions to the challenges (technical and financial), develop information and guidance. It will connect with others who are addressing the same challenges to learn collaboratively. Put simply, the LAB will work out how we get what we need (make dreams come true)

It is suggested that a Zero Carbon Champion is appointed by the Church in Wales (employed by the Representative Body). This post would sit within the Property team (because much of the challenge is building related) reporting to the RB Property Committee, the Bench and the Standing Committee. This person would coordinate and support the work of the HUB and the LAB.

### ***Step 3: Write the Action Plan***

The work of the Hub and Lab will support the primary task of the Champion to write the Church in Wales Net Zero Carbon Action Plan. This plan should be completed and endorsed by the Governing Body on behalf of the whole of the Church in Wales one year after the declaration. The Action Plan would set the target date for zero carbon.

The action plan is likely to address the following key areas:

1. Reduce power demand: Radically reduce heating and lighting in all our buildings; this would involve installing LED lighting, draught-proofing, insulations etc
2. Use the right kind of power: New forms of heating probably based on sustainably produced electricity. This also needs robust supplies to be in place and may include renewable energy production facilities on church land
3. Travel lightly: Travel and transport of staff, volunteers and parishioners to move away from petrol/diesel cars and use technology for meetings etc. Reduce international travel.
4. Better use of our land: Enhance biodiversity across our estate by way of 'offset' including tree planting on glebe land.
5. Zero Carbon Fellowship: consider the food and drink we share building on our Fairtrade work
6. Promote the zero-carbon agenda in the communities we serve
7. Investment policy

Change can happen simultaneously in several key ways. Appendix 2 shows the four perspectives for any organisation of the Church to consider the different actions it should take.

### ***Step 4: Measure, Monitor and Report***



Through the HUB, we will need to develop ways to track how we are progressing with the Action plan. This will enable reporting to the Church as a whole (particularly the Governing Body) and inform the LAB of the areas for further work and development.



## **Appendix 1**

### **Draft Declaration of a Climate Emergency**

From our deep concern for God's creation, we note:

- the stark warning from the world's scientific community that there are just 10 years left to prevent 1.5 degrees warming
- that warming beyond 1.5 degrees represents a threat to the future of humanity, and that even warming limited to that level will wreak havoc upon the livelihoods of countless people across the world
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