Example PCC Creation Care Policy

DRAFT

**DATE OF POLICY: Spring 2025 date of next review: TBC**

**1. Background**

‘Creation care’ refers to the fifth mark of mission within the Anglican Communion, which states that Christians should "strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth," essentially calling for responsible stewardship of the natural environment and addressing environmental concerns as a part of their faith practice.

As voted by General Synod in 2022, the Church of England aims to be carbon net zero by 2030. The Church Commissioners have set aside £190m between 2023-2031 towards actions that support a pragmatic roadmap to net zero. Some of the funding will be made available to parish churches who are actively engaging in reducing their carbon footprint.

**2. Affirmation**

We affirm these elements of our faith:

* God has created an awesome and majestic universe to bring Him praise and glory. We are but one part of His created order.
* Jesus has redeemed the whole earth through His death and resurrection and on his return will consummate a Renewed Heaven and Earth.
* As those made in God’s image, we have a special responsibility to steward and care for the Earth so that human life and all God’s creatures may be sustained and flourish in harmony. As members of Christ’s kingdom, we have a special responsibility to participate in his renewing of the earth.

**3. Aim:**

As a local parish church, we aim to take the practical steps necessary to actively support the Fifth Mark of Mission in our community, country and globally.

We will take environmental concerns into account in all aspects of our church life, including our worship, teaching, mission, pastoral, youth and children’s work, training, administration, and charitable giving as outlined in the commitment actions below.

**4. Policy commitments:**

1. *Worship, teaching & mission, youth & children’s work*

We will regularly include the importance of care for creation in our worship, teaching, prayers and mission, and as part of our work with children and young people.

1. *Parish Environmental Champion*

We will appoint an Environmental Champion to lead our programme and encourage members of the congregation to be part of an Eco sub-group. The PCC will welcome regular updates on environmental issues and concerns.

1. *Eco Church*

We will participate in the Eco Church programme with the intent of achieving at least bronze status by the end of 2026 and at least silver by the end of 2028.

1. *Measuring our energy footprint*

We will complete the Church of England’s Energy Footprint Tool on an annual basis providing information on the energy use within our premises.

We will complete the 360carbon tool on an annual basis providing information on the total carbon footprint of our church buildings and activities.

We will encourage our congregation to measure their own carbon footprint using the [WWF Footprint Calculator](https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/questionnaire?utm_source=Grants&utm_medium=PaidSearch-Brand&pc=AWS014007&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiAkc28BhB0EiwAM001TdtljTt4jbjjfuFCr7lOJFDLdWSfq-Jz2kvU6xrVTzI9N8ROiuw37hoCH_cQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds).

1. *Reducing our carbon impact*

We will reduce the carbon impact of our energy use by:

* switching to a green electricity tariff at the end of our fixed term contract recognising that some additional costs may be incurred to purchase renewable energy
* exploring opportunities to switch to a green gas tariff at the end of our fixed term contract
* Using thermostats and timers for temperature control
* Having 100% LED lighting where practicable
* Turning off lights, appliances and computers when not in use

1. *Heat decarbonisation assessment*

We will support the completion of a heat decarbonisation assessment of the buildings identifying the most significant issues and impacts which should be addressed over the next ten years, e.g. potentially replacing single glazing with double glazed units, improving insulation, installing solar panels, replacing gas heating (at the end of its useful life) with electric.

We will make and implement pragmatic plans to evaluate and address the recommendations , recognising that some additional costs may be incurred to minimise environmental impacts.

1. *Transport*

We will encourage our staff and congregation wherever practicable to use forms of transport to work, meetings etc. which have minimum or reduced environmental impact – e.g. walk, cycle, public transport, car sharing, hybrid/electric/ hydrogen vehicles.

1. *Food*

Where practicable we will:

* serve fairtrade tea and coffee,
* provide food prepared using local produce
* provide a vegetarian option
* grow our own vegetables/herbs

i. *Recycling and unnecessary waste*

We will seek ways to reduce material consumption and the impact of our activities on the environment by wherever practicable:

* Using email rather than sending hard copies
* Using recycled/green verified printer paper
* Reusing/ repairing items
* Minimising the use of single-use plastic
* Using low environmental impact cleaning materials
* Supporting the Leyland Furniture Scheme

*j. Water use*

We will avoid using water unnecessarily, regularly check for leaks, fit water minimising systems to taps and toilet cisterns wherever practicable.

*k. Outdoor spaces*

We will assess our outdoor spaces for wildlife and manage them where practicable to conserve biodiversity through the provision of bird boxes, bug hotels, planters etc

We will employ grass cutting/collection regimes that support wildlife eg no-mow May, composting cuttings.

*l. Community outreach*

We will work with others in our local community to identify environmental issues which should be addressed in our area and help develop actions to tackle them.

We will participate in the Leyland in Bloom litter picking

*m. Charitable giving*

We will consider directing some of our charitable giving to charities which are working to care for the environment or to support those who are adversely affected by climate change eg Tear Fund.