



Environmental Policy

St. George's Church accepts responsibility for its effects on the environment and is committed to reduce them. As your local Church of England (Anglican) church, one of our Five Marks of Mission is to strive to safeguard the integrity of Creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The key points of our strategy to achieve this are:

- a. Frequently emphasise God's love for Creation and our stewardship of nature, through our worship and teaching.
- b. Understand and minimise the impact of our church activities, land and buildings on the environment, especially on the climate and biodiversity.
- c. Implement an awareness program for our congregation, volunteers and staff to enlist their support in improving the church's impact on the environment.
- d. Measure our carbon footprint and set targets for ongoing improvement which achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Understand what would be required to reach this target and draw up an economically sensible action plan to achieve it.
- e. Use future plans to reduce our environmental impact.
- f. Engage with other churches, the Diocese of Newcastle, the Church of England and other local and national partners to understand and follow best environmental practice & guidance in the context of listed church buildings, to secure their help and partnership to get the work done and to hold the national Church to account.
- g. Collaborate with people and groups from our local community on environmental initiatives.
- h. Establish *and maintain* an Eco Group, chartered by the Parochial Church Council to bring environmental issues and concerns forward to them on a regular basis; with agreed membership, accountability and resources.
- i. Follow the Eco Church programme, aiming to achieve Gold certification by 2030
- j. Ensure compliance with all relevant environmental legislation.

Signed:

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Dated: April 2024

9/4/24

Chair of the Parochial Church Council

Review: This policy will be reviewed each year at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting