

Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church (BSBC)

Environmental Policy

This policy seeks to identify principles to assist BSBC in making best use of environmental resources.

This policy attempts to:

- spell out a commitment to act responsibly on matters of environmental concern
- identify ways in which this commitment can be translated into action

The Biblical creation stories give human beings privilege and responsibility in relation to the earth and every living creature. We are called to be partners with the rest of creation and co-partners in the ongoing creative and renewing activity of God. Such partnership goes wrong when human beings act as if the whole earth were simply for their present benefit. God's way, revealed in the Bible and particularly in the life, death and resurrection of Christ, is a generous sharing of the divine love to serve the needs of God's creation until it reaches its fulfilment. Christian mission includes sharing in putting right the relationships within God's creation that have gone wrong, and growing towards the balance and good stewardship envisaged in the Biblical vision of the world as it is meant to be. We can do this by:

- the conservation and use of resources in the Church and at home
- helping to develop more sustainable lifestyles
- ensuring that employees and volunteers are familiar with and implement our environmental commitment and its objectives

In practical terms the following principles should be followed:

Energy and Water

- to ensure energy is used efficiently and wherever possible to reduce its use; using energy saving light bulbs and switching off lights and other electrical items when not in use
- to encourage the increased use of renewable energy
- 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 waste materials, including organic waste
- to shred confidential waste before recycling
- to provide within the church buildings separate bins for recyclable and non-recyclable waste
- to ensure all waste is placed in the appropriate bin for collection by the local authority

- to dispose of all waste in a safe and responsible way
- The disposal of any hazardous materials must be done in accordance with legal requirements

Materials and Resources

- to buy products which are made in accordance with the principle of using material in a sustainable way
- where possible, to use eco-friendly cleaning materials and toiletries
- to maximise the proportion of paper used from sustainable sources and recycled materials;
to reuse waste paper when possible; to only provide a level of paper copies that will be used
- where possible, the imported products used are either Fairtrade (economically friendly) or support the rain forests (ecologically friendly)
- to only use disposable plates, cups and cutlery at functions when absolutely necessary
- to take steps to eliminate unwanted mail that is just recycled
- to take into account the lifetime costs of materials when repairing, altering or rebuilding premises
- 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 be sensitive to the impact of church activities on the local environment

Travel

- to make every effort to reduce air pollution and energy consumption resulting from the use of the car by avoidance of unnecessary travel and the use of energy efficient vehicles
- to explore undertaking the work of the Church in ways which reduce the need for travel particularly by car and allow for the possibility of and encourage access by public transport, cycle and on foot
- to share car transport where possible

This policy should also be adhered to by any groups using the building on a hire basis

This policy was adopted by the Trustees on 14th September 2020 and will be reviewed every three years.