



DIOCESE OF WINCHESTER ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY



Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing the world today and will impact on every aspect of human life and on the natural environment.¹ In March 2009 the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams said that we must all recognise that 'there is no way of manipulating our environment that is without cost or consequence' and that 'ecological questions are increasingly being defined as issues of justice'.²

At the July/August 2008 Lambeth Conference a statement from concerned bishops called on all Anglicans living in the developed world to adapt their lifestyles with the aim of halving their personal footprint and in so doing contribute to national and international targets.

OUR COMMITMENT

We believe that care for the environment is fundamental to Christian faith and action. As stewards of God's gift of creation, we recognise that each of us has a responsibility to ensure that this remains a sustainable world and to respond to the social injustice visited on many of the world's poorest people as a result of climate change.

To this end we affirm the 5th Mark of Mission agreed at the 1988 Lambeth Conference which asks all churches to '**strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain and renew the life of earth**' as central to our work and mission.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- to encourage individuals and churches to take active steps to reduce their carbon footprint;
- to promote the responsible use and recycling of natural resources at diocesan and parish level and to reduce consumption where possible;
- to promote environmental awareness throughout the parishes of the diocese;
- to celebrate and affirm the dignity of creation.

OUR STRATEGY

- for all parts of the church, corporate and parochial, to undertake an energy audit every 5 years in line with their Parochial Visitation, in order to assess their progress in shrinking their footprint (see appendix 5).
- to encourage all parts of the church in the meantime to assess their commitment to reduce their carbon footprint against the recommendations set out in the appendices and to work towards achieving a Diocesan Environmental Award – bronze, silver and gold.

To assist with the implementation of this policy we have produced a number of appendices (available on the Diocesan website). These provide fuller detail on the background to the environmental crisis, the options facing us, a theological basis for our commitment to change, recommendations for change and a list of resources, including the Diocesan Environmental Award Scheme.

1 Taken from the 'Shrinking the Footprint' website

2 From the Archbishop's Ebor Lecture in York, March 2009