

Summary of Recommendations

See Diocesan Environmental Award Scheme

IN PARISHES AND DEANERIES

The working party recommends that PCCs and Local Ministry Teams should:

Community

1. encourage church members to work with others in their communities in caring for the environment;
2. support the concerns of environmental organisations through church magazines and by other means;
3. be aware of what is already happening in local schools to encourage green thinking and to support this work as much as they can, through collaboration with local schools in environmental projects and by providing opportunities for children to share with the wider community and the congregation what they are doing.

Christian Living

1. help local churches celebrate festivals of the agricultural year in ways appropriate to the church context;
2. invite local environmental organisations to take part in church worship, particularly when the service has a particular creation theme or on Environment Sunday (resources and details of which can be found on the A Rocha website, www.arocha.org)
3. help people realise that activities which help them engage creatively with nature are part of their spiritual life and not something apart from it; and to provide the means and opportunity for people to encourage each other in developing this participation in creation.
4. consider taking part in the Eco-Congregation programme, or an alternative;
5. help people appreciate the diversity of sources of our food and the particular benefits of locally produced environmentally responsible, animal friendly and fairly traded products.

Resources

1. ensure that materials are not being used unnecessarily;
2. wherever possible, recycle materials and put in place ways of enabling church members and local communities to recycle more;
3. wherever possible, phone or email instead of using paper;
4. in order to reduce their environmental impact, carry out an energy audit on church buildings and then work to improve their energy efficiency. This will include both reducing losses and schemes for energy generation. PCCs might do this as part of the Eco-Congregation programme or might do it separately and compare their figures with the national benchmark for their type and size of building;
5. think creatively about how the environmental impact of a church building can be reduced, and submit applications to the DAC, with PCCs seeking advice from architects and specialist advisers in the relevant fields;
6. for travel, encourage walking, cycling, the use of public transport and car sharing;
7. where possible, choose locations for meetings that minimise the need for overall travel;
8. encourage particular people in the area to develop a knowledge of local public transport so that they can inform others when decisions are made or questions are asked;
9. when there is a group outing, use a community vehicle or a hired minibus or coach.

If implementing any of these recommendations please consider whether a faculty is required from the DAC

ARCHDEACONS VISITATIONS

The working group recommends that the Archdeacons' Articles of Inquiry in 2011 should ask Churchwardens what action is being taken in their parishes in response to these recommendations.

IN THE DIOCESAN OFFICES, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

The working party recommends that:

Office, Administration and Resources

1. an environmental audit should be carried out on the Diocesan Offices at Old Alresford Place and a budget prepared for improvements and submitted for consideration by the managing body;
2. the Diocesan Offices at Old Alresford Place should be switched to an electricity supply from renewable sources, and in the longer term there should be an aim to make it carbon neutral;
3. attention should be paid to ensure that materials are not being used unnecessarily, and are being re-used or recycled wherever possible;
4. wherever possible, phone and email should be used instead of paper.

Education

1. the Diocesan Board of Education and its officers should continue to help schools make links between RE and other aspects of the curriculum in which ecological awareness and thinking are being developed; follow such relevant themes as creation, stewardship, penitence and hope in school worship; and adopt an environmental education programme such as *eco-school*.
2. the Board of Education should continue to work with the various Local Authorities, who have officers working on energy reduction and generation, to assist Governing Bodies to take steps to make their school buildings increasingly environmentally friendly, in accordance with Building Bulletin 87 (from the Dept for Children, Schools and Families).

Housing and Glebe

1. the Property Committee should continue to work to steadily improve all diocesan housing towards a passive house standard;
2. new vicarages should be built to a high environmental standard;
3. the Property Committee should work towards ensuring that DBF and glebe land and buildings are used in a way that is good for the environment.

Meetings and Travel

1. diocesan meetings should be held less often but for longer, if necessary;
2. consideration should be given to the location of meetings to minimise travelling;
3. car sharing should be encouraged and could be facilitated by emailing to the people attending meetings a list of the others in the group together with their phone number and email;
4. creative ways should be explored that work towards reducing the necessity of long-distance travel, eg video conferencing facilities;
5. the Bishops, Archdeacons and Diocesan Officers who work over a wide area should use hybrid cars or vehicles with very low fuel consumption;
6. when reimbursing travel costs, it should be assumed that public transport will be used if it is available.

Church Buildings

The DAC recognises the conflict between the best environmental solution and the best conservation/architectural solution. However, environmental best practice should be considered on a case-by-case basis, recognising that it is often more ecologically sound to use traditional building methods and materials that will last for hundreds of years as opposed to modern equivalents that will last significantly less.

AT WOLVESEY, THE BISHOP'S HOUSE

The Bishop of Winchester is working with the Church Commissioners, who are responsible both for the House and for the Bishop's Office and other working costs, to ensure that the House is maintained and used with due regard for the environmental impact.

AT THE CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral Chapter should be encouraged and supported in their concern to reduce the environmental impact of the cathedral.