

# HCC Environmental Policy



## Introduction

1. Huntingdonshire Community Church (HCC) is committed to doing all we reasonably can, in line with the church's mission and values, to contribute to a sustainable, healthy and balanced environment. In doing so we will minimise the potential harmful effects of our activities whenever and wherever possible.

## Target Areas

2. In particular, HCC will:
- a. Promote the recycling of materials and the use of recycled materials and reduce the production of waste materials wherever possible.
  - b. Reduce emissions to air through the effective management of energy usage in existing buildings.
  - c. Select products and materials from sustainable sources wherever possible and endeavour to source local and seasonal food produce.
  - d. Require all contractors and significant suppliers to demonstrate that they operate an environmental policy and work with all suppliers to ensure ethical and environmentally aware purchasing where feasible.
  - e. Encourage the use of public transport over car use and provide facilities for cyclists.
  - f. Encourage a positive attitude to the local environment from staff, volunteers and church members.

## Method Statements

3. Recycling and Waste Management
- a. We will cooperate with the local authority and align with waste management priorities, including the separation of different kinds of waste.
  - b. All cleaning products used will be environmentally friendly where possible and disposed of appropriately.
  - c. We will endeavour to recycle all paper products including shredded paper and ensure that efficient use is made of technology to reduce overall paper usage as far as possible.
  - d. We will ensure the specialist recycling of printer/copier toner cartridges, etc, and will ensure that computer hardware is disposed in accordance with government legislation.

- e. We will ensure that all newly purchased or leased office machinery will be Energy Star compliant.
- f. We will control unnecessary food waste through controlled buying practices and good portion control.

#### 4. Energy usage

- a. Every 3 years, we will undertake an environmental and energy audit of the church premises and property, identify the most significant issues and impacts which should be addressed and make and implement plans to tackle them, recognising that some additional costs may be incurred to minimise environmental impacts.
- b. We will encourage the efficient use of heating in our Church Centre and other facilities that we use in line with the needs of our staff, volunteers and members. Heating will only be brought on when rooms are in use and adjusted to comfortable but not excessive temperatures.
- c. Low energy lighting systems, including LED light bulbs, will be used where possible. External floodlights will be PIR-controlled or turned off when not required. We will ensure that lighting is turned off in offices when they are not in use and outside office hours.
- d. We will ensure the efficient thermostatic control of water temperatures.
- e. When work is done to our building in areas which require insulation, we will ensure that the insulation fitted at least meets industry best practice.

#### 5. Water Use

- a. We will avoid using water unnecessarily, monitor the monthly usage via our water meters, and check for leakages.
- b. We will fit water minimising systems to taps and cisterns wherever practicable.

#### 6. Purchasing

- a. New equipment, which we specify, will meet or better current environmental standards.
- b. We will purchase recycled products wherever possible.
- c. We will ensure that we ourselves or contractors whom we employ do not use environmentally damaging products or processes where less environmentally damaging alternatives are feasible.
- d. We will work with suppliers to ensure use of recycled materials where feasible.

#### 7. Transport

- a. We will encourage car sharing, the use of public transport, cycling and walking to work.
- b. We will use technology including teleconferencing where possible to reduce unnecessary travel.

#### 8. Consultation

- a. We will ensure that staff and volunteers are made aware of this environmental policy.

b. We will encourage staff, volunteers and member suggestions on ways to improve our effect on the environment in our building, meeting places and day-to-day operations.