

Draft Environmental Policy for St Davids Diocese

'Treading lightly in the footsteps of St David'

Called to Care for Creation

In the shadow of the growing threat posed by climate change and the destruction of species Christians have rediscovered in scripture their core calling to care for creation. The Anglican Communion's Fifth Mark of Mission voices this imperative that we "strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth". We care because 'the Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it' (Ps 24:1). Made in God's image we are called to care for creation as God does, to serve and *preserve* the Earth as the Hebrew words of Genesis 2:15 can be translated. Equally, because climate change is a social justice issue which adversely affects the world's poorest soonest and most severely, our call to love our neighbour demands we act. This task of loving neighbour and earth alike we share with Christ for 'all things have been created through him and for him...and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.' (Col 1: 16-20).

Commitment to Action

The diocese of St Davids commits to:

- Live the Anglican Communion's fifth mark of mission and "strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth"
- Rejoice in the gift of creation through worship, celebration, and fulfilling our call to creation care
- Ensure justice in our enjoyment of the fruits of creation to this and future generations through the following undertakings:
 1. Respond to the Church in Wales' declaration of a climate emergency by reducing diocesan carbon emissions from buildings and travel to net zero by 2030, developing an action plan to achieve this.
 2. Become a Bronze level 'Eco Diocese' (accredited by a Rocha UK) by Diocesan conference 2022 (01/10/22), and subsequently to attain Silver and Gold levels.
 3. To make living sustainably and in harmony with God's creation an integral part of our worship, prayer, ministry, teaching and training.
 4. Make care for creation and reaching net zero carbon emissions an integral part of our diocesan strategy and vision, requiring all relevant diocesan committees to report annually on progress.
 5. Include in quinquennial reports targets and actions to reduce carbon emissions and care for creation.
 6. Include progress on Eco church awards and on cutting carbon emissions in Archdeacons' reports and visitations.
 7. Report on progress annually to the senior leadership team and diocesan conference.
 8. To disinvest from fossil fuels and climate damaging activities.

Appendix I:

Targets to facilitate implementation of the Environmental Policy

Short term (year one – by diocesan conference 2022)

- **Develop an action plan for achieving net zero emissions target:** Commission a 'Zero carbon group' to write plan and co-ordinate the transition. This group to work with the church in Wales' newly appointed 'Climate change Champion' and to engage with parishes and LMA's to assist with the transition.
- **Worship** – (i) all parishes/LMA's to celebrate a 'Climate Sunday'
- **Switching to renewable energy supplies.** Electricity: 50% diocesan buildings (churches, halls, VA schools) to swap electricity supplier to a 100% renewable source (75% by end of 2023, 100% by end of 2025). Gas: Green gas supplies to be 10% by 2022 (50% by 2023, 75% by 2025).
- Reducing travel for meetings by 30%
- **Eco Church.** 10% of congregations to have registered for Eco Church (c. 30 churches) 5% to have gained bronze award (c. 15 churches.).
- **Embark on becoming a bronze level 'Eco diocese'** (requiring 10% of local churches registered with Eco church.; 5% of local churches gained Bronze level Eco church award)
- **Education.** Resource and encourage a shared bible study over Creation Season (or Lent) exploring the call and practicalities of caring for creation.
- **Become a Diocesan member of God's Acre** to resource the sustainable management of church land

Medium term (within five years)

- **Worship** – Observe 'The Season of Creation' as a diocese. Resource churches with appropriate liturgical resources.
- **Energy.**
Electricity: 75% of diocesan buildings (churches, halls, VA schools) to swap electricity supplier to a 100% renewable source by end of 2023 (100% by end of 2025). Gas: 50% green supplies by 2023 (75% by 2025). Zero Carbon Group to have investigated potential for energy efficiency measures in buildings, renewable energy generation, and carbon capture and storage (e.g. tree planting) and complete a/some pilot projects.
- **Eco Church** – signpost and develop materials to encourage and resource Eco-church (Web resources, training courses, Eco-mentoring scheme)
- **Education.** Embed creation theology and care into CMD, IME and lay training programmes. Encourage and resource church/home-groups. Enrol willing clergy on the 'Christian Rural and Environmental Studies' two year certificate (distance learning). Work to incorporate creation care into St Padarns' training programme. Encourage governors at Church schools to embed creation care into curricula
- **Eco diocese.** To have achieved 'Bronze level' Eco-diocese and be working towards Silver.

Long Term (five to ten years)

- **Worship** To have embedded the Season of Creation into our liturgical cycle; to have encouraged the Church in Wales to incorporate the Season Creation into the Lectionary.
- **Energy.** All churches, halls, and VA schools on renewable energy tariffs.

Renewable energy generation established where appropriate. Reduce net carbon emissions to zero.

- **Eco-church. All LMAs to have at least one Eco-church**
- **Eco-diocese.** Achieve Silver level ○
- 20% of local churches registered on Eco church; 10% of local churches awarded
- All church land to have management plan for sustainability /biodiversity