



# Environmental Policy

We believe that Jesus has redeemed the whole of creation and has called us to take care of all that He has made. Part of our strategy at Ps & Gs is to establish a 'caring for creation' ministry which will address issues including environmental damage and climate change. We have also committed to be a public Christian voice on key issues in Scotland.

## Aims

- We aim to take the practical steps necessary to realise the Anglican communion's Fifth Mark of Mission, which is "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain the life of the earth".
- As a church community, we will take environmental concerns into account in all our ministry areas. This includes worship and prayer, mission and giving, teaching and training, youth and children's work and the management of our resources.
- In response to our care for the vulnerable, and those facing injustice and poverty, we will support our global neighbours through prayer, giving and reducing our contribution to climate change.

## Objective

To reach net zero carbon by 2030, in line with the Scottish Episcopal Church's target.

## Actions

1. We will measure the carbon footprint of our church.
2. We will support congregation members to measure and reduce their [carbon footprint](#).
3. We will work alongside the diocese to implement the [Scottish Episcopal Church toolkit](#) to help churches reach net zero carbon.
4. We will work towards improving and maintaining our [Eco-congregation Scotland](#) award.
5. We will reduce energy usage by lowering thermostats, using LED lights and switching off unnecessary lights. Training will be given to staff, caretakers and building users.
6. We will continue to use renewable energy providers. We will investigate renewable heating alternatives when boilers need replacing and will plan to improve insulation in all church buildings. We will investigate the possibility of using [PV solar panels](#). (Funding options: [CARES funding for renewables](#), [Zero Waste Scotland loan](#), [National Churches Trust](#).)
7. We will encourage staff and congregation members to walk, cycle or use public transport when attending church, the church office, meetings and conferences. We will also consider attending meetings online instead of travelling large distances.

8. We will reduce our consumption and waste in the main space and offices by using recycling and food waste bins, and by avoiding unnecessary waste and single-use plastic. We will also fix and reuse current items or use recycled products whenever possible.
9. We will work towards following the LOAF (locally-sourced, organically-grown, animal-friendly, fairly-traded) principles in all catering and hospitality. We will share our Food Management and Caring for Creation document with all lead cooks.
10. We will ensure any future investments are fossil free (we currently hold no investments). We will investigate the ethics of our bank, mortgages, pensions and other financial providers, and will consider switching to more [ethical providers](#).
11. We will maintain our garden spaces to allow wildlife to thrive and to provide beautiful spaces for church groups to use.
12. We will include our concern for creation care as an integral part of our worship, teaching, prayer, decision making, and resources use.
13. We will commit to regular focus on caring for creation within our children, youth and student ministry as well as within our connect groups. This will include teaching as well as encouraging practical action.
14. We will communicate our journey towards greater sustainability beyond our congregation, as part of our commitment to discipleship, evangelism and deepening influence. We will be a public Christian voice and will support those who work in positions of influence.

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This policy and associated actions will be reviewed annually by the Caring for Creation team.