

Parish Environmental Policy – St Leonard's Streatham 2022- 2025

We affirm these elements of our faith:

- Through Christ, God has created all things to bring Him praise and glory. We are but one part of His created order.
- Jesus has redeemed the whole earth through His death and resurrection
- We have a special responsibility to care for the Earth so that human life and all God's creatures may be sustained in harmony.

Aim: As a local church, we aim to take the practical steps necessary to realise the *Fifth Mark of Mission*, which is “to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain the life of the earth”.

We are seeking to support and uphold the [Diocese of Southwark's Environmental Charter/ Policy](#) as we as a local church :

Objective: We will take environmental concerns into account in all aspects of our church life, including our worship, teaching, mission, pastoral, youth and children's work, training and administration.

Actions:

1. Worship, Teaching & Mission, Youth & Children's Work

We will include the importance of care for creation in our worship, teaching and mission, and our work with children and young people.

2. Parish Environmental Champions.

The PCC will act as Environmental Champion for St Leonard's and will commit addressing relevant environmental issues and concerns on a regular basis.

3. Eco Church. We will follow the A Rocha <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

Eco Church programme. Having achieved a Silver Award in 2021 we will continue to work towards Gold status.

4. Energy Audit 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 and programmes to tackle them, recognising that some additional costs may be incurred to minimise environmental impacts.

5. Tackling our Energy Use & Carbon Footprint

We will seek to reduce our energy use and our greenhouse gas emissions of the electricity and gas used in church premises by:

- Continuing to purchase our energy via the Parish Buying scheme (renewably generated electricity and biogas).
- Using thermostats for temperature control

- Fitting LED light bulbs • Turning off lights, appliances, and computers when not in use
- Improving insulation wherever practicable
- Replacing old, inefficient boilers where practicable and investigating renewable heating alternatives (achieved 2018)

6. Transport

We will encourage our staff and congregation wherever possible to use forms of transport to work, meetings etc. which have minimum or reduced environmental impact – e.g. walk, cycle, public transport, car sharing, electric/ hydrogen vehicles.

7. Food

We will serve food, where possible:

- Choosing local produce
- If our church purchases red meat or dairy products we will aim for local produce to reduce its carbon footprint
- Composting waste food.

8. Recycling and Unnecessary waste

We will seek ways to reduce material consumption and the impact of our activities on the environment by wherever possible:

- Using email rather than sending hard copies
- Using recycled paper for all single use services and events.
- Reusing/ repairing items
- Using low environmental impact cleaning materials

8. Water use

We will avoid using water unnecessarily, check for leakages, use water minimising systems to taps and cisterns wherever practicable.

- Installation of a water butt for church yard watering.

9. Churchyard

We will assess our land and property for wildlife and manage them to conserve biodiversity.

10. Sustainable lifestyle

We will encourage individual members of our congregations to take actions in their personal lives to complement and supplement these actions of the church community.

11. Community outreach

We will work with others in our local community to identify environmental issues which should be addressed in our area and help develop actions to tackle them.