

Implementation, Monitoring & Review

In light of the urgent ecological imperative, we invite all members of the diocese to consider the implications of the vision within this environmental policy and to embed the goals in our planning and actions.

As individuals, we are encouraged to adopt creation care as part of our everyday faith. As a corporate church, parishes are encouraged to embed creation care, supported by a network of deanery environmental champions. Parishes will be supported and resourced in reviewing and enriching their environmental responses through the work of the diocesan offices and by building it into the strategic decisions of the diocese.

The Diocesan Secretary will take responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of this policy within the Diocesan Office and administrative activities of the Diocese. Key diocesan office holders will take responsibility for monitoring the effective implementation of actions that help meet the goals within their areas of responsibility, and will feed into the policy review processes.

The environmental policy will be accompanied by a five-year Environmental Actions plan. This is a working document organised around the goals, listing actions to be taken. The actions will be reported to, reviewed and updated annually by Bishop's Council of Diocesan Trustees. The policy will be reviewed and updated every two years to keep in line with the changing landscape of environmental targets.

For further details on how to embed creation care into the life of your parish please contact:

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DIOCESE OF LINCOLN
faithful · confident · joyful

Cherishing Creation

An Environmental Policy for the Diocese of Lincoln

Adopted by Diocesan Synod July 2019 - Updated - November 2020

As Christians we embrace our responsibility as stewards of God's good creation to tend and serve the flourishing of life, for now and future generations. The United Nations Sustainable Development goals set global targets for carbon reduction and sustainable living; their Paris Agreement of 2015 commits members to limiting temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Parliament has declared a 'climate emergency'. Important as these national and international targets and statements are, we believe our right treatment of God's planet and people is far more than a practical matter. Our own General Synod recognises "that the global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation, and a fundamental injustice". As the Cape Town Commitment of 2011 (Lausanne) says: "We care for the earth and responsibly use its abundant resources, not according to the rationale of the secular world, but for the Lord's sake... [it] is a gospel issue within the lordship of Christ."

We believe in the vital importance of doing all we can to live out all the Marks of Mission, including striving to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustaining and renewing the life of the earth. We will enable action as a whole diocese – as individuals, parishes, churches and central services – supporting that which reverses the effects of our environmental destruction and encourages life.

We recognise the challenge of embedding environmental stewardship to be consistent with and complimentary to all our concerns, rather than simply being one of several competing priorities. At a point of global climate emergency (Environmental Resolution passed at Anglican Consultative Council 17, April 2019) we recognise that the time for action is now. We understand that putting good environmental practice into action and prioritising environmental concerns requires a shift in imagination and culture; it will need careful consideration of affordable technologies, financial and other resources, supportive legislation and appropriate policies. The Diocese of Lincoln commits to enabling and supporting individuals and churches across the diocese so that our words and actions increasingly speak of God's infinite love for all creation.

Vision

Our vision for the Diocese of Lincoln is a healthy, vibrant and sustainable church transforming lives in greater Lincolnshire. Environmentally, this has implications for us as individual Christians, each of our churches and as a diocese together, becoming a place where:

- Every aspect of the diocese's ministry and mission, including our worship, training, assets, churches, churchyards, schools and glebe lands, contribute to the well-being of creation through our stewardship of land, biodiversity, water, air quality, materials, resources and people
- Carbon emissions produced through the activity of the Diocese of Lincoln are reduced to net zero by 2030 in line with the motion agreed at General Synod in February 2020, using the Church of England's 'Energy Footprint Tool' as a measure for churches.
- Diverse ecologies and habitats of all living creatures thrive, aiming that in the future Lincolnshire and its neighbouring seas will be richer in biodiversity
- Partnership working builds resilient communities able to respond well together to situations of environmental crisis.

Our vision contributes to our diocesan mission through:

Faithful worship adopting the whole-life activity of glorifying God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer supported through liturgy, teaching, training, worship, resources

Confident discipleship inspired by Christ's redeeming love for the whole of creation through building confidence and maturity in our Christian environmental stewardship and in our cherishing of all creation

Joyful service bringing nearer the Kingdom of God through individuals, partnerships, parishes and as a diocese by engaging in our local contexts and acting as global partners in God's mission in the flourishing of life in all its fullness.

Goals

We will work towards the following goals, set by our diocesan mission:

FAITHFUL WORSHIP

- 1.1 Creating worship that attends to the theology of creation, providence and our role as entrusted stewards
- 1.2 Caring for places of worship (buildings and land) with environmental integrity
- 1.3 Supporting the study of eco-theology and its implications for our discipleship at all levels of education and training
- 1.4 Communicating and celebrating good practice in eco-care.

CONFIDENT DISCIPLESHIP

- 2.1 Building confident environmental discipleship through using Eco Church resources
- 2.2 Resourcing all to embed environmental actions into our discipleship
- 2.3 Promoting the evangelising potential of creation and our care for it in proclaiming God's love
- 2.4 Applying strong ethical and environmental criteria towards resources and money

JOYFUL SERVICE

- 3.1 Increasing service to neighbour and to all of life through environmental stewardship and action
- 3.2 Using A Rocha's Eco Diocese & Eco Church criteria as a toolkit for change
- 3.3 Reducing the carbon footprint of diocesan activity (transport, assets, buildings, land, procurement)) to net zero by 2030 in line with the motion agreed at General Synod in February 2020
- 3.4 Working in partnership with other faiths, community groups and councils on environmental projects.