

St Edmund's Church Roundhay Environmental Policy

We affirm these elements of our faith:

Through Christ, God has created an awesome and majestic cosmos 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 recognise that 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 have a ministry and mission of environmental stewardship, for our own property, through our congregation, and in our community, which glorifies God and brings Christ's kingdom in our parish.

Objective

As a church community, we will take environmental concerns into account in our mission, worship, study, education, training, pastoral, administrative and other projects and programmes.

Actions

1. We have appointed a Parish Environmental Representative and other Champions to lead our programme and we encourage them to bring relevant environmental issues and concerns forward to the PCC on a regular basis. Much of this work in practice occurs in conjunction with the Fabric committee.
2. We will regularly include our concern for sustainability in our worship and teaching.
3. We will undertake to calculate our church's carbon footprint annually and work to reduce it in line with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change targets (45% reductions in carbon emissions by 2030 and to net zero emissions by 2050, from 2010 levels).
4. We will consider how our church is vulnerable to extreme weather from climate change and develop a climate resilience plan. For example upgrading rainwater goods to cope with intense rainfall, tree planting to provide shading in heatwaves, hedges for strong wind protection, having a flood plan.
5. We have been grateful to accept an environmental and energy audit of the church premises and property carried out via the Diocese, which has helped to identify the most significant issues and impacts which should be addressed. We have started to make and implement plans and programmes to tackle them. We recognise that considerable additional costs may be incurred to minimise environmental impacts and that changes to buildings may need faculty permission, requiring consultation with the Diocesan Advisory Committee and external bodies to ensure historic buildings legislation requirements are met.

As the church's energy use is arguably its greatest environmental issue, we will seek to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of the electricity and gas used in church premises by:

- Switching to "green" energy suppliers (renewably generated electricity and biogas); this is in place
- Using thermostats for temperature control
- Fitting LED light bulbs; this is in place
- Improving insulation wherever practicable and appropriate
- Turning off lights, appliances and computers when not in use
- Replacing old, inefficient boilers where practicable and investigating renewable heating alternatives

6. 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.
7. 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 vehicles.
8. We will seek to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of the food we serve - for example by providing mainly vegetarian or vegan meals and using locally sourced produce where possible. This is often contributed directly by members of the congregation and we will encourage them to follow this principle too.
9. We will ensure that our church's money is being used ethically and our investments and bank account are divested from fossil fuels.
10. 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 and printing double-sided
 - reusing/repairing items
 - using low environmental impact cleaning materials
11. We will avoid using water unnecessarily, install water meters where appropriate, check for leakages, fit water minimising systems to taps and cisterns wherever practicable.
12. We will assess our land and property for wildlife and manage them to conserve biodiversity.
13. 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.
14. We will resume participation in the Eco Church programme.

This policy and programme will be reviewed every three years in light of developments and monitored for progress annually. Next review due - **April 2028**

This updated Environmental Policy was adopted by the PCC on 28th April 2025

Signed for an on behalf of the PCC by 

Useful Resources

Eco Church, A Rocha [Eco Church - An A Rocha UK Project](#)

Diocese of Leeds Environment webpages www.leeds.anglican.org/environment

Church of England Environment Programme [Church of England Environment Programme | The Church of England](#)

Six Steps to Carbon Net Zero Church Toolkit
<https://www.leeds.anglican.org/saving-creation-carbon-net-zero-church>

Church of England Environment Programme Webinars
<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/webinars-getting-net-zero-carbon>

Church of England Net Zero Carbon Church Guidance
<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/net-zero-carbon-church>

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland climate justice [Climate Justice - CTBI](#)

Greening the Lectionary <https://www.greeningthelectionary.net>

Pray and Fast for the Climate [Pray and Fast for the Climate – Pray and Fast for the Climate](#)

Green Christian [Green Christian – Ordinary Christians, extraordinary times](#)

Climate Stewards [Climate Stewards – For people and planet](#)

Operation Noah [Our Work - Operation Noah](#)

Caring for God's Acre, churchyard care www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

Historic England (environmental performance and historic buildings) [Energy Efficiency and Retrofit in Historic Buildings | Historic England](#)