

Presbyterian Church of Wales Environmental Policy

"As a Church we are committed to looking after God's creation, by deliberately investing in reducing our carbon footprint, by increasing recycling, by reducing waste, and improving the efficiency of our use of the world's natural resources."



As churches locally we will:

- secure electricity and gas suppliers that invest in green energy, eg Ecotricity, or Good Energy.
- worship / share a building or using a more eco-friendly community building to meet our responsibility to God's world;
- use (and sell) Fairtrade and local goods in our homes and churches;
- explore the potential for supporting green energy generation initiatives locally;
- not use single use plastic, and use paper that comes from green sources;
- move to heating systems that avoid using fossil fuels in all our buildings, including our chapels, chapel houses, manse etc;
- evaluate the balance between a welcoming light and warm building, and the need to avoid wasting energy;
- disinvest in any companies that dig for or promote fossil fuels if the church invests its own money; and
- facilitate shared travel, or adjust service times if this facilitates the use of public transport

As Presbyteries and Association we will:

- embed environmental issues as part of the Ministry and Strategy Plan criteria, offering support from the strategy fund to plan centres moving to heating or co-working which reduces our carbon footprint.
- assists our churches in meeting the aims of environmental policy
- ensure that Presbytery meetings and its committees are conducted in an eco-friendly manner. This will mean that people can join virtually, or travel together, and ideally, the meetings are at sites that make traveling by public transport possible
- move to secure heating systems that avoid the use of fossil fuels in any Presbytery controlled properties.
- encourage our churches to work with local transformation groups or sustainability groups, or to set up similar groups and receive training and support on issues such as climate justice and environmental care

As an Assembly we will:

- Disinvest in companies that either continue to extract fossil fuels from the ground, or do not have a clear commitment to reducing their carbon footprint. We will do this with our church partners, and in particular by taking advice from organizations such as the '*Transition Pathway Initiative*', and that we try and implement this recommendation, including dis-investing in companies which are causing a negative impact on climate change, before the end of this year.
- amend our rules regarding the use of capital to support churches that want to move away from fossil fuel use;
- move to secure heating systems that avoid the use of fossil fuels in any property controlled by the Assembly Board. Also install an electric car power point in areas where they are scarce;
- offer practical support to individuals who are stipendiary or employed as they take positive steps towards reducing fossil fuel consumption, e.g. increase loan amount / allowance for electric car etc.;
- ensure that the meetings of the Assembly, its Board, Department and committees are conducted in an eco-friendly manner. This will mean that people can join virtually, or travel together, and ideally, the meetings are at sites that make traveling by public transport possible; and
- invite individual (s) to promote the policy across the Denomination and in relation to Denominations and other church Groups.

