

Oxford Circuit Environmental Policy

1. Across the Circuit we would like to see churches:
 - a. Recognise that as Christians we are responsible for the care of God's earth, embedding sustainability in all our activities and reflecting on the environmental consequences of our decision making.
 - b. Make caring for the environment integral to our worship of God.
 - c. Improve the environmental impact of our buildings in ways which benefit the environment and the community.
 - d. Use any land around our buildings in ways which benefit the environment and community.
 - e. Engage with local and global organisations in seeking a fairer, more environmentally friendly world and engage with the political process at all levels to generate political action to protect and restore the planet.
 - f. Encourage lifestyles both personally and as churches which reflect these aims.
2. In order to achieve this vision, the Circuit:
 - a. Has registered its commitment to become an Eco Circuit with A Rocha.
 - b. Has appointed a steering group to coordinate progress within the Circuit and to encourage churches and direct them towards helpful resources.
 - c. Will encourage churches to become Eco Churches.
3. In becoming an Eco Circuit, the Circuit will:
 - a. Encourage all churches to appoint an environmental champion or champions to act as a focus for work in the church and liaise with the Circuit.
 - b. Seek to ensure that 20% of churches in the Circuit gain Eco Church awards and aim for the gold standard of 40% churches awarded.
 - c. Aim to manage the manses in the Circuit so that they achieve a minimum energy performance certificate rating of C. Aim to purchase any new manses for the Circuit with an energy rating of B or better.
 - d. Ensure that materials to enable theological reflection on environmental issues are shared with Local Preachers and Worship Leaders.
 - e. Manage its investments ethically.
 - f. Commit to reducing carbon emissions in its buildings by undertaking environmental audits and setting targets to reduce their carbon footprint.
 - g. Seek to work with other faith groups and organisations to encourage environmental action.
 - h. Record and celebrate individual environmental activities within the Circuit.
4. In practical terms the Circuit will:
 - a. Encourage the Circuit to promote the use of public transport or, where this is not possible, car sharing to attend Circuit events and factor this into the choice of location for meetings.
 - b. Seek to make use of online meetings, where appropriate, to minimise carbon emissions and encourage the use of electronic communications in preference to paper.
 - c. Encourage the use of reusable or recyclable materials for catering, and environmentally friendly cleaning materials.
 - d. Promote the use of LOAF foodstuffs (Locally produced, Organically grown, Animal friendly and Fairly traded) within the Circuit.
 - e. Include Eco Circuit on the agenda of the Circuit meeting. Becoming an Eco Circuit is one of the Circuit's agreed priorities.
 - f. Ensure that the Circuit staff are aware of the Circuit's environmental commitments.