

Cardiff Methodist Circuit environmental policy - DRAFT

1. Policy statement

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth... God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. – Genesis 1:1, 31.

As Christians, we believe that God created the world. We believe in the inherent goodness of creation, and we believe that God is active and present in the world – sustaining creation from moment to moment. As people made in the image of God, we believe we are called to reflect God's nature in being present and active in caring for creation.

Closing our ears to the voices of those most vulnerable to climate change would be nothing less than giving up our claim to be disciples of Christ. – Hope in God's Future

In 2019 the Methodist Conference recognised that we are facing a climate emergency, and, with the support of A Rocha UK, launched the Eco Circuit scheme.

The Cardiff Methodist Circuit seeks to respond by becoming an Eco Circuit and working together to Care for the Earth and follow sustainable practices for the present and future generations.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this environmental policy is to ensure that environmental issues are considered in all aspects of life in which Cardiff Methodist Circuit is involved and promote awareness throughout the Circuit of the importance of environmental issues and the values underlying them.

3. Scope

This policy relates to:

- all decision-making bodies at Circuit-level within the Cardiff Methodist Circuit, e.g. Circuit staff/leadership team meetings, Cardiff Methodist Circuit meeting, Circuit property and planning committee, Circuit financial committee
- all other Circuit groups, e.g. local preachers' meeting, world church group, informal Circuit groups
- all other Circuit gatherings or events, e.g. Circuit services, Circuit youth gatherings.

4. Policy details

4.1 Awareness and Commitment

As Cardiff Methodist Circuit we will:

- recognise that as Christians we are responsible for the care of God's earth, embed sustainability in all of our activities and reflect on the environmental consequences of all of our decision-making;

- make caring for and restoration of the environment a central part of worship, prayer and teaching;
- reduce the impact of our buildings and our use of them on the environment;
- commit to reducing carbon emissions according to the Methodist Church aspiration to reach net zero by 2030;
- use any land around our buildings in ways which benefit the environment and the community;
- seek to manage its investments ethically considering the climate change investment policy of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church;
- encourage lifestyles both personally and as church/Circuit members which reflect these aims;
- engage with local and global organisations in seeking a fairer, more environmentally friendly world;
- ensure that Cardiff Methodist Circuit employees and office holders are familiar with and implement this environmental policy.

4.2 Action

In order to achieve this vision Cardiff Methodist Circuit will:

- register its commitment to be an Eco Circuit with A Rocha
- form a Circuit Eco Church group to:
 - coordinate progress within the Circuit and produce regular updates in the Circuit newsletter and Circuit social media platforms
 - liaise with the Circuit meeting/various subgroups within the Circuit where decisions are being made to ensure environmental issues are appropriately considered, e.g. property, finance
 - encourage all individual churches within the Circuit to register as an Eco church and use the Eco church survey framework as a template to become more environmentally friendly, applying for an award if appropriate and feasible
 - support and encourage individual churches
- comply with all relevant environmental regulations.

Worship and teaching

- ensure that materials to enable theological reflection on environmental issues are included in the support given to local preachers, worship leaders and those leading local church arrangements
- encourage the emphasis of environmental issues regularly in Circuit devotions, prayer meetings, worship and alongside special services or events.

Buildings and land

- manage the Circuit office, Manses and land as sustainably as possible including:
 - registering the Circuit office and land as an Eco church property and seeking to achieve a bronze award
 - encouraging all Circuit-owned properties, including manses, to switch to a renewable energy provider and undertake an energy consumption review
 - ensuring energy consumption, sustainability and environmental issues are considered as part of the ongoing Circuit review 'Forward in Hope'.

Lifestyle

- consider the impact of travel when planning the location and timing of Circuit meetings/events to minimise carbon emissions including:
 - giving first consideration to venues and meeting/events in locations where public transport can be used
 - encouraging the use of public transport or car sharing to attend meetings in the meeting information
- seeking to make use of conferencing facilities (e.g. Skype, Teams and Zoom) for Circuit meetings where appropriate and feasible
- minimise the impact of paper communication by
 - encouraging the use of electronic communication in preference to/alongside paper where appropriate and feasible
 - using recycled paper for all necessary hard copy communications, e.g. Circuit plans, Circuit newsletters
- encourage the transition within the business, worship and life of the Circuit to using:
 - reusable or recyclable materials for catering at Circuit meetings and events
 - fairly traded refreshments at all events
 - environmentally friendly cleaning materials in all Circuit-owned properties
 - plastic-free alternatives and reducing plastic waste.

Community and global engagement

- create an Eco Circuit area on the Cardiff Methodist Circuit website
- seek to work with other Circuits, denominations and faith groups and local organisations/businesses, e.g. Siop Sero, Repair Cafe, to encourage environmental action
- keep abreast of the work of, and draw on resources from:
 - Methodist Church Connexional and/or Wales Synod Cymru District
 - other organisations such as A Rocha, Operation Noah.

5. Roles and responsibilities

The Circuit meeting will:

- consider environmental matters in decision-making, seeking advice from the Circuit Eco Church group where needed
- ask for a representative from the Circuit Eco Church group to attend the Circuit Meeting in a voting capacity
- ensure the environmental policy is circulated to all Circuit staff and relevant groups/stakeholders.

The Circuit Eco Church group will:

- Meet a minimum of quarterly to fulfil the criteria defined in the 'Action' section above
- Provide a representative to the Circuit meeting and respond to requests.

6. Compliance

In order to ensure continual improvement and progress the Cardiff Methodist Circuit will:

- include environmental policy and issues as an agenda item at the Circuit meeting
- record and celebrate any awards or achievements, e.g. at Circuit services, in the Circuit newsletter, via social media platforms
- encourage dialogue and discussion around areas of the policy that are proving difficult to implement.

7. Review and revision

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Circuit Eco Church group and revisions will be presented and ratified by the Cardiff Methodist Circuit meeting.

8. Approval

CARDIFF METHODIST CIRCUIT

Registered Charity No

Environmental Policy Agreed by the Cardiff Methodist Circuit meeting on:

Review log:

Version number	Changes made	Date agreed by Circuit meeting	Agreed by
V01	New Policy		