

Harrogate Baptist Church:

Environmental Policy.

Harrogate Baptist Church affirms that Christian mission includes caring for God's Earth. We believe it is each of our responsibility to be stewards of Creation. As such we believe that we have been given divine responsibility to care for the environment, for today and for future generations.

We affirm that it is our Christian duty to care for God's Earth and all of His creation that dwells upon it. We accept that human activity has been, and continues to be, responsible for the degradation of the planet and that our history, both industrial and cultural, has led to a disproportionate hardship, through the affects of climate change, falling on others in the world.

We, as a congregation, are challenged and encouraged to care for the earth by following sustainable practice and taking into account global and local environmental considerations.

In undertaking a commitment to our Christian core values we shall

- helping to develop more sustainable lifestyles
- take an active role in our town's initiatives aimed at sustaining and renewing our local environment
- conserve and use our church's resources wisely
- use the skills, creativity and enthusiasms of our own congregation in finding ways to reduce our environmental impact
- look to achieve, and value, small changes, as well as the large

For significant change to take place, monitoring of plans and targets will be essential at every level of our Church's life.

We will aim to co-operate in joint initiatives with other Churches.

Environmental Policy Objectives

Awareness and Commitment.

We shall

- promote awareness within our church of these principles and objectives and of the values underlying them
- ensure that our employees and office holders are familiar with and implement this environmental commitment and its objectives
- to ensure that our church's activities comply with all relevant environmental regulations

Energy and Water

- ensure energy is used efficiently and wherever possible reduce its use
- encourage the increased use of renewable energy
- use water efficiently and with care
- avoid pollutants entering the drainage system

Waste

- reduce the production of material waste including unnecessary packaging
- encourage re-use, repair and recycling of materials including organic waste
- dispose of waste in a safe and responsible way

Materials and Resources

- buy products which are made in accordance with the principle of using material in a sustainable way and to use locally-made goods where practicable, whilst recognising our church's listed status and historic fabric
- take into account the lifetime costs of materials when repairing, altering or rebuilding premises, whilst recognising our church's listed status and historic fabric
- maximise the proportion of paper used from sustainable sources and recycled materials
- offer electronic communication as an alternative to paper for those who are suitably equipped
- show concern for the environmental quality of food production systems and the equitable global distribution of food

Natural and Built Environment

- take appropriate opportunities to conserve and enhance the natural and built environment around our church
- be aware of local planning developments
- be sensitive to the impact of church activities on the local environment

Travel

- make every effort to reduce air pollution and energy consumption resulting from the use of the car by avoidance of unnecessary travel and the use of energy efficient vehicles
- explore undertaking the work of the Church in ways which reduce the need for travel particularly by car and allow for the possibility of and encourage access by public transport, cycle and on foot
- share car transport where possible
- support the expansion of good quality public transport, the provision of improved facilities for cyclists and pedestrians and local Green Travel Programmes.

We affirm this Environmental Policy to illustrate our place in God's community on Earth.

Approved by the Diaconate November 2011