

## St. George's URC: Environmental Policy

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden to work it and take care of it."  
Genesis 2:15

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it." Psalm 24:1

We are stewards of God's creation. As such we are to care for the earth and act in ways that will restore and protect the environment.

At St. George's URC we are committed to continually improve our environmental performance and to effectively manage our significant environmental impacts. This policy communicates our environmental aims and objectives to all members, adherents and hall/service users and applies to the minister, elders and all members, adherents and users.

We are committed to reducing the negative environmental impacts of our activities, in particular:

- Church/office/hall/manse: energy use, water use and waste;
- Travel: energy use;
- Communication materials: use of resources (mainly paper and inks) and transport for printed materials, use of energy for storage, downloading, streaming and/or online reading for digital communications
- Events: energy use, water use, food, waste, transport and travel
- The goods and services we choose for our facilities: stationery, ICT and electronic equipment, furniture and cleaning, energy origin/source
- Services we use: website, data and email hosting and banking

St. George's URC practises the principles of the 3Rs:

Reduce energy consumption and waste by thinking about what we buy and how we use it.  
For example, we will:

- Provide documents electronically where possible and minimise the use of paper-based documents;
- Avoid printing non-essential documents and emails, and encourage recipients of our communications to do so;
- Ensure printing and photocopying are done double sided, wherever possible;
- Share office equipment and resources;
- Where possible, use local suppliers;
- Avoid purchasing and using disposable cups, particularly non-recyclable ones, and food packaging;
- Use 'green' energy providers for electricity and gas supply;
- Switch off lights and equipment when not in use;
- Replace light bulbs/fittings with those that are more energy-efficient over time
- Keep heating and artificial cooling to a minimum;
- Encourage the use of car sharing for local travel.

Re-use by trying to find a second life for items especially paper and office stationery. For example, we will:

- Use both sides of paper prior to recycling and re-use envelopes and packaging, where possible;
- Consider acquiring second-hand or refurbished equipment rather than purchasing new.

Recycle as the least preferred option of the 3Rs. For example, we will:

- Use designated bins throughout our buildings for waste that can be recycled by the council and promote their use with church groups and external hirers;
- Seek to have unwanted furniture or equipment reused or recycled;
- Recycle photocopier and printer cartridges.