

**The Parish of North West Swindon and Lydiard Millicent
in the Diocese of Bristol**

25th October 2025

Environmental Policy

Approved by	PCC
Name:	Nichola-Jane Iddon in consultation with the PCC
Position:	Eco Champion
Date issued	25 Oct 2025
Next Review	25 Oct 2025
Signed by	

Policy statement

We recognise the urgency of the climate and nature crises and the fundamental injustice these represent. We will take the practical steps necessary to strive toward safeguarding the integrity of creation and sustaining the life of the Earth. In February 2020, General Synod recognised the climate emergency and set a target for the whole Church of England of achieving 'net zero' carbon by 2030. This commitment requires us all to take action to reduce our carbon footprint.

Our principles and values

God created the world and everything in it.

We have a special responsibility to care for the Earth so that human life and all God's creatures may be sustained in harmony.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1, NIV).

Our church is committed to minimising our negative impact on the environment.

As Christians it is our responsibility to care for creation, using resources wisely to mitigate climate change, protect biodiversity, conserve finite resources, and minimise waste and pollution.

Seeking climate justice is part of Christian discipleship and practice.

Following Christ's teachings means loving our neighbours and caring for creation. Often the communities who suffer the most from the effects of the climate crisis are those who have done the least to cause it. We will aim to improve our sustainability and to show solidarity with those across the world who are suffering in this crisis.

Our Commitments

Worship and Teaching

We will communicate our understanding of responsibility to God for all that is entrusted to us through creation, making the links between poverty, wealth and environmental degradation.

Buildings and Energy

We recognise the most important environmental impact will be an ongoing reduction of our carbon emissions. We will seek to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, working toward net zero carbon.

Land and Nature

We will respond to the nature crisis and loss of biodiversity through practical action, collaboration and campaigning.

Community and Global Engagement

We will raise awareness that the climate and nature crises disproportionately affect the poorest. Wherever they are in the world we will promote justice for people and nature.

Lifestyle

We recognise that we have an impact on the world through the choices we make. We will seek to encourage our church community and beyond to live gently on the Earth and be prepared to challenge systemic injustice.

Our objectives

Worship & Teaching:

- to acknowledge and celebrate special days and seasons relating to creation care and to hold an annual Eco Service or event;
- to acknowledge in our prayers the damage done to creation, to repent of our role in environmental destruction and encourage those who seek to safeguard creation;
- to seek out worship resources which are as sustainable as possible, and ensure that everything possible is reused or recycled so that waste to landfill is minimised;

Buildings & Energy:

- to reduce our carbon footprint through more efficient and targeted heating;
- to ensure that our operations plan focusses on minimising energy use and maximising energy efficiency;

Land & Nature

- to implement a land management plan which benefits wildlife, including the protection of planting and No Mow May;
- to ensure that our land management avoids the use of synthetic fertilisers, pesticides or herbicides;

Community & Global Engagement

- to engage with environmental and social justice issues affecting both the local area, national policy and global issues;
- to provide opportunities that encourage a more equitable and inclusive experience of nature through getting outside to enjoy, nurture and protect nature;

Lifestyle

- to encourage the congregation to take part in social or environmental campaigns supported by the church;
- to encourage members to manage their own or local outdoor spaces for nature.

Date policy adopted: October 2025

Date of review: October 2026