



The **Methodist** Church

The South Bedfordshire Circuit

South Bedfordshire Circuit Environmental Policy

The South Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit seeks to fulfil its responsibilities as commanded in the first chapter of Genesis to be good stewards and take responsibility for the earth and all its constituent parts. The Circuit affirms that Care for Creation is an integral part of the Methodist Way of Life¹, as well as being in line with the principles of a Justice-seeking Church².

Preamble

In 2009 The Methodist Conference received the report 'Hope in God's Future' which was commended for study and action and recommended the identification of realistic approaches to reduce carbon emissions across the whole of church life in line with the national goal of 80% reduction by 2050. However the situation has become increasingly urgent, particularly for some of our global partners, and at Conference in 2021 the Methodist Church in Britain agreed an aspirational target to become net zero by 2030, "and to use its assets, investments and influence to drive practical action to benefit people and planet." (Action for Hope, Faith Plan para 17)

At Circuit level we are committed to playing our part and have therefore produced this Policy Statement and Action Plan to demonstrate that commitment and work towards becoming an Eco-Circuit.

Policy Statement

- We will encourage all our members (constituent churches, staff members, post-holders and individual members) to fulfil their calling to care for creation and work towards the protection of the planet for the good of all people, in order to embed this principle in the life of our Circuit and its mission and ministry.
- We will help them to uphold this commitment by the ways available to us.

¹ <https://www.methodist.org.uk/faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/visit-every-station/>

² <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/social-justice/a-justice-seeking-church/>

- We will measure, monitor and celebrate the work done across the circuit towards this aim.

Ways of working

- We will seek, where necessary, to change policies so that they support creation care - by our involvement at local, national and global level.
- We will facilitate sharing of good practice and support between churches at different stages along the journey, as well as building relationships for wider support.
- We will encourage churches to become Eco-churches
- This will be a regular agenda item of Circuit Meetings in which we share good news stories and consider further actions.
- We will encourage ministerial staff, lay employees, officers of the circuit and churches, local preachers and worship leaders to consider creation care in their work and decision-making, always asking “is this the best eco-option?”
- We will consider that due consideration is given for creation care, environmental protection and energy efficiency in any maintenance and building works, purchase of new equipment etc.
- We will make ethical decisions that include creation care when determining grants, investments and use of finances.