

# **New Road Methodist Church Centre, Stourbridge**

## **Environmental Policy**

At New Road Methodist Church Centre, we are committed to being good stewards of God's creation and recognising our responsibility to care for the environment. We strive to minimise our ecological footprint and actively contribute to a sustainable future. Our environmental policy outlines our dedication to environmental stewardship and our commitment to promoting sustainable practices within our church community.

### **1. Environmental Awareness, Education, and Prayer**

- We will raise awareness among our members about environmental issues and the importance of sustainable practices through educational posters, sermons, and events.
- We will encourage our members to adopt environmentally friendly behaviours both within and outside of the church.
- We will actively engage in prayer for environmental issues, recognising the power of prayer in seeking guidance, strength, and solutions to the challenges facing our planet.

### **2. Energy Efficiency and Conservation**

- We will strive to reduce energy consumption by implementing energy-efficient measures in our church facilities, such as using energy-saving light bulbs and insulating the building where practicable.
- We will encourage members to conserve energy by turning off lights when not in use, using natural lighting whenever possible, and being mindful of energy usage during church services, events and activities.
- We will encourage the use of lights on motion sensors or timers in areas where lighting is not constantly required, such as corridors, restrooms, and storage rooms. This will help ensure that lights are only active when needed, reducing unnecessary energy usage.

### **3. Waste Reduction and Recycling**

- We will implement a recycling programme within our church premises, ensuring that recyclable materials such as paper, plastic, glass, and metal are appropriately sorted and recycled.
- We will minimise waste generation by promoting practices such as paperless communication, encouraging the use of reusable cups and utensils during events, and providing recycling facilities.

### **4. Water Conservation**

- We will strive to reduce water consumption by regularly monitoring and repairing any leaks or water inefficiencies within our church facilities.
- We will educate our members on the importance of water conservation and encourage responsible water usage both within the church and at home.

### **5. Sustainable Transportation**

- We will promote sustainable transportation options such as car-sharing, cycling, and public transportation for church services, events and activities.
- We will provide adequate bicycle parking facilities and promote cycling as a sustainable means of transportation to and from church.

## **6. Outdoor Spaces and Landscaping**

- We will maintain our outdoor spaces in an environmentally responsible manner by using sustainable gardening practices, minimising the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers.
- We will explore opportunities to create wildlife-friendly habitats and incorporate native plants in our landscaping to support local biodiversity.

## **7. Collaboration and Advocacy**

- We will actively engage with other churches, community organizations, and environmental groups to collaborate on environmental initiatives and share best practices.
- We will advocate for environmentally responsible policies and practices within the Vale of Stour Methodist Circuit and support initiatives that promote sustainability and conservation.

## **8. Continuous Improvement and Monitoring**

- We will review our aims and targets, and this policy, annually and according to national and international information and standards, based on the best available scientific evidence to ensure our continuing commitment.
- We will involve our church members and seek their input on environmental matters to foster a sense of shared responsibility and commitment to environmental stewardship.

This environmental policy will guide our actions and decisions as we strive to fulfil our responsibility to care for the Earth and future generations. We invite all members of New Road Methodist Church Centre to embrace and support this policy, working together to create a more sustainable and environmentally conscious community.

### **Contact Information**

For questions or concerns related to this policy, please contact:

Abigail Dutton or Liam Hodgetts <[eco@newroad.valeofstour.org.uk](mailto:eco@newroad.valeofstour.org.uk)>

Policy agreed: 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Review date: February 2025