

Environmental Policy for Emmanuel Church Eastbourne¹

1 Introduction

As stewards of God's creation, Emmanuel Church Eastbourne is committed to caring for the environment and promoting sustainability in all aspects of church life. This policy outlines our commitment to environmental stewardship in accordance with the Eco Church award scheme, addressing the five key categories: *Worship and Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community and Global Engagement, and Lifestyle.*

2 Worship and Teaching

We recognise and teach that creation care and action to address the climate and nature crises are integral to Christian faith, life and worship. We are committed to responding to this by participating in the A Rocha UK Eco Church award scheme.

We will integrate environmental themes into our worship, prayers, and teaching to inspire action within our congregation. This includes:

- Regular sermons and study groups on creation care and biblical environmental responsibility.
- Celebrating Creationtide and other relevant events.
- Incorporating environmental concerns into our prayers and liturgies.
- Encouraging children's and youth groups to explore ecological themes.

3 Buildings

Our church has recognised the climate and nature crises and the fundamental injustice these represent. We have committed to reducing our carbon footprint year-on-year, in line with the Methodist and United Reformed Churches' commitments to reach net zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2030.²

We will strive to make our church building as energy-efficient and sustainable as possible by:

- Conducting energy audits and implementing recommendations to reduce consumption.
- Using renewable energy sources where feasible.
- Reducing waste through recycling, composting, and being careful not to over-order supplies with a short life span.
- Responsible procurement in all areas, from cleaning supplies to building materials, office supplies to food.
- Encouraging responsible water usage and installing water-saving devices.
- Ensuring ethical sourcing of materials and sustainable maintenance practices.

4 Land and Nature

Our church has a very small amount of land but we commit to working in partnerships with other organisations or community groups to manage their land for nature as far as this is within our capacity to do so.

With the land and planters that we have we will manage them to encourage biodiversity and sustainability by:

¹ Approved July 2025

² <https://urc.org.uk/environmental-policy/> and <https://www.methodist.org.uk/action/climate/action-for-hope/>

- Planting native species and maintaining wildlife-friendly green spaces where possible.
- Avoiding the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals.
- Providing outdoor space for contemplation, prayer, and ecological education.

5 Community and Global Engagement

Our church recognises the impact of the climate and nature crises and has a plan or strategy to take action LOCALLY and/or NATIONALLY and/or GLOBALLY.

We will actively engage with our local and global communities to promote environmental awareness and justice by:

- Partnering with local environmental organisations and initiatives.
- Supporting Fairtrade and ethical purchasing policies.
- Advocating for policies that protect the environment and vulnerable communities affected by climate change.
- Encouraging congregation members to participate in eco-friendly community activities.
- Using opportunities to raise awareness of issues faced by our global community, through the Emmanuel magazine, website, Minister's weekly emails, Sunday services and other meetings, etc.

6 Lifestyle

We recognise that we can have an impact on the world through the choices available to us and our use of money and resources. We will strive to support our church family and wider community in bringing about positive change and care for God's Earth. We will seek to encourage our church community and beyond to live gently on the Earth and be prepared to challenge systemic injustice.

We will encourage our congregation and church leaders to adopt environmentally sustainable lifestyles by:

- Promoting personal and collective carbon footprint reduction.
- Encouraging the use of sustainable transport, including cycling, walking, and public transport.
- Reducing single-use plastics and promoting responsible consumption habits.
- Providing educational resources and practical guidance for sustainable living.

7 Implementation and Review

To ensure continuous progress, we will:

- Assign the Eco Church team to oversee and encourage implementation of this policy.
- Establish a baseline of our carbon footprint using a recognised tool such as <https://footprintr.me>
- Set measurable environmental goals and monitor progress annually.
- Regularly review and update this policy in light of new environmental challenges and opportunities.

Through these commitments, Emmanuel Church Eastbourne seeks to glorify God by caring for His creation and encouraging a sustainable future for all.