

## **Environmental Policy**

Genesis 1:26-28: Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

CityGates Church Norwich affirms that our responsibilities include caring for God's earth. We believe that it is our duty to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain the life of the earth. Consequently, we shall keep in mind how we can conserve and use our Church's resources wisely to find ways to reduce our environmental impact

## **What are the responsibilities of the Church Management Team?**

- To promote the principles and aims of this policy
- To ensure that employees and office holders are familiar with and committed to the policy
- To ensure the church complies with relevant legal and regulatory obligations
- To utilise the expertise and knowledge of the membership as appropriate including the appointment from time to time of a green champion to make practical suggestions as to what we might consider as a church and as individuals to support the principles of the policy

## **What are the aims of the policy?**

The Church Management team will encourage all employees and office holders to:

- Use energy efficiently, including the fitting of low energy bulbs, use of thermostats to regulate temperatures and turning off lights and computers when not in use
- Use water with care ensuring taps are not left running unnecessarily and are properly switched off
- Limit the production of material waste including packaging and encourage re-use, repair and recycling of materials where possible
- Dispose of waste in a safe and responsible way
- Use recycled paper where this is sufficient for purpose
- Minimise the use of plastic and disposable items
- Use low environmental impact cleaning materials

- Buy goods that have been ethically produced and traded
- Use electronic communication wherever possible
- When carrying out repairs and improvements, try to engage local services and businesses and use products and materials having regard to lifetime costs and sustainability
- Seek to cooperate in joint initiatives with other local churches
- Consider how we undertake the work of the church in ways which reduce the need to travel by car, promote shared transport, use public transport or cycle provision
- Have due regard to the neighbourhood in the use of our premises
- Review the management of our finances in the light of potential social and environmental impacts

### **What might members and regular attenders of CityGates Church consider?**

Recognising that God has given us responsibility for looking after our planet, here are some suggested actions that we could consider to improve our environment.

- Follow the waste hierarchy of reduce, re-use, recycle ahead of disposal
- Use environmentally friendly cleaning products
- Use electronic communication where possible
- Compost at home
- Re-use bags
- Consider the use of public transport, walking, cycling and car sharing
- Utilise fuel efficient vehicles
- Buy goods that have been ethically produced and traded
- Purchase food and drink that has been produced locally
- Minimise the purchase of bottled water
- Use rechargeable batteries. Investigate things like, renewable energy suppliers for domestic power, installing solar panels and using a water butt in your garden

**Green Champion:** Daniel Rankin is very happy to assist with any practical advice and tips on how we can all put into practice some of these suggestions and can be reached at:

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