

REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH IN WALES CLIMATE CHANGE AND NET ZERO CARBON POLICY

Introduction

The Representative Body fully acknowledges the motion of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales in April 2021:

1. That the Governing Body declares a Climate Emergency as follows:
We acknowledge that that an urgent and rapid global response to global warming is now necessary.
We welcome the fact that solutions to alleviate the climate crisis are widely available including renewable technology, sustainable transport options and zero-carbon buildings.
We support the decisions of governments, councils and organisations across Wales to pass motions declaring a climate emergency and setting net zero carbon emissions targets for their local areas.
We should endeavour, through an action plan, to reach a net zero carbon emission position for the activities of the Church in Wales as soon as is practically possible.
2. Requests that the Representative Body prepares an action plan, for consideration by the Governing Body at or before its meeting in April 2022, that sets out how the whole of the Church in Wales can reach a net zero carbon emission position by 2030 or as soon as practically possible thereafter.

This policy sets out how the Representative Body will respond to this motion.

Overall Policy

The Representative Body will now:

- fully embed considerations of climate change and reaching net zero carbon within its decision making by its trustees, committees and staff
- ensure, as far as possible, that its decisions positively impact on the carbon footprint of the organisation's directly controlled activities with the aim of reaching a net zero carbon position for them by 2030 or sooner.
- use its influence both within the Church in Wales and outside to achieve the ambitions of the Governing Body motion.

Implementing the Overall Policy

This policy will need action in the following key areas:

1. Reducing energy use
2. Use of the right kind of power
3. Greener travel
4. Meeting arrangements
5. Sustainable Use of land
6. Procurement of goods and services
7. Using influence to promote the agenda
8. Investment policy

This will involve:

- resourcing the Action Plan requested by the Governing Body to help every organisation within the Church in Wales church develop a clear framework for action
- reviewing activities, through the Committees of the Representative Body to develop specific action plans for undertaking Committee work, including policy development, to facilitate a net zero position and combat climate change
- making environmental performance a key factor in the procurement of goods and services including property acquisition, repair and improvement
- considering whether grant aid to encourage progress by others might be possible either through existing or new streams
- encouraging and supporting the whole church to achieve net zero. This could include training, guidance etc
- developing new and innovative ways to enable local churches to move to net zero and combat climate change
- resisting proposals for change that do not move the church towards net zero or help combat climate change
- working with staff to plan work patterns and activities around net zero carbon and climate change
- carefully considering the environmental impact of meetings and only holding face-to-face meetings when it is truly advantageous to do so
- seeking to limit business travel to essential travel and then by the most sustainable means possible and practical.