

## **Environmental Charter**

The General Synod recognises that:

“As with all Christians, members of the Church of Ireland are charged with stewardship of God’s creation, locally, nationally and internationally. All members of the Church, as individuals and as part of the worshipping community, are called to that duty of environmental stewardship through:

a) Recognising and reducing waste

Church bodies and parishes should identify practical steps to reduce waste through simple steps such as monitoring energy use, draught proofing and recycling.

b) Increasing environmental awareness across parishes

Parishes and individuals can only make good choices about environmental issues when they are informed choices. Awareness of these issues should be developed by individuals and Parishes, and may include reflecting the significance of the created order through our worship, exploring alternative energies and exploring resources which promote this awareness tailored to particular constituencies e.g. Youth and Children’s Ministry and across Parish Organisations. Eco-Congregation Ireland produce resources that Parishes may find useful.

c) Exercising leadership through environmental responsibility

It is only through actions that results will be forthcoming. The environmental factors in decision making processes within parishes should be highlighted to parishioners e.g. websites and magazines. Conversations about environmental lifestyle choices should be encouraged between parishioners and within parish groups.

d) Identifying spiritually and practically with the developing world

Variation in climate is felt most keenly by those who are encumbered by poverty. Parishes are encouraged to take steps to mitigate the impact of climate change. Parishes are encouraged to continue to support projects that work in such places, and to develop relationships with overseas churches to show solidarity. The Synod remains mindful of Motion 3 passed by the General Synod in 2006, recognising the contribution made by Fairtrade practices to the achievement of justice for the poor.

e) Influencing policy and the Church and State

Big changes start with small groups. By raising awareness and expectations within the Church, members can be better equipped to influence policies through lobbying and elections.

In all of this, prayer for decision makers and those who are impacted by environmental issues should be at the heart of the Church’s response.”

Accordingly, the Synod commends this Environmental Charter for the use of all Parishes in the Church of Ireland. The Synod further requests that the substance of this Resolution be conveyed to Diocesan Synods with a view to action.