



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Approved by Diocesan Council

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1 Preamble

- 1.1 The Anglican Diocese of Perth (ADP) is committed to the careful stewardship of the environment in accordance with the *Protection of the Environment Canon 2007*.
- 1.2 By adopting the Canon, the ADP undertook to do the following:
 - a. reduce its environmental footprint by increasing the water and energy efficiency of its current facilities and operations; and
 - b. ensure that environmental sustainability is an essential consideration in the development of any new facilities and operations.
- 1.3 The ADP upholds the fifth mark of mission “to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth”.
- 1.4 The ADP recognises the traditional approach of Aboriginal Australians in “treading lightly”, and as far as reasonably possible having a beneficial impact on our lands and waters.
- 1.5 The ADP has established the Anglican EcoCare Commission under the *Anglican EcoCare Statute 2006* to advance environmental advocacy and education in the Diocese of Perth.

2 Scope

- 2.1 This policy applies to the following ADP sites; all parishes, St Georges Cathedral and Wollaston Theological College Swan Valley Adventure Centre, and Diocesan Office. This policy applies to all members of the Episcopate, members of the Diocesan Council, clergy, lay ministry workers, parish office bearers and church volunteers.

3 Definitions

- 3.1 There are several definitions of Environmental Sustainability, each informative in its way. Environmental Sustainability is:
 - a. responsibly interacting with the planet to maintain natural resources and avoid jeopardizing the ability of future generations to meet their needs;
 - b. the capacity to improve the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of the earth's supporting ecosystems; and,
 - c. about stabilizing the currently disruptive relationship between earth's two most complex systems: human culture and the living world.

4 Policy

- 4.1 All ADP entities and parish councils governed by this policy are to comply with the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and proactively consider environmental sustainability in relation to the physical assets under beneficial ownership and the way operations are conducted.
- 4.2 Attention is drawn to *Policy 6.1* in relation to strategic and project planning and the circumstance under which a Faculty is required. Similarly, attention is drawn to *Policy 6.5* about the use of approved contractors.



5 Guidelines

These guidelines are not compulsory and should be considered a resource or advisory in nature.

5.1 Sustainable Buildings

- 5.1.1 In the early stages of construction or renovation of Diocesan buildings, consideration should be given to environmental factors such as:
 - a. passive thermal efficiency, ventilation, shading and natural lighting;
 - b. the selection of materials for longevity;
 - c. the integration of the built and natural environment;
 - d. healthy environments;
 - e. social amenity; and
 - f. adaptability for future use.
- 5.1.2 For new houses and residential buildings in WA the minimum requirement is 7 Stars (NatHERS Rating). For Class 9b churches and halls the minimum requirement is a 4 Star Green Star rating.
- 5.1.3 The Parish Property Team can assist parishes and other entities engage appropriate consultants to assist in improving the sustainability of buildings.

5.2 Energy Consumption

- 5.2.1 Space heating and cooling, water heating and lighting are the most consumptive uses of energy.
- 5.2.2 In addition to the building design issues above, energy consumption or greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced by:
 - a. installing energy-efficient lighting;
 - b. using energy-efficient appliances; and
 - c. replacing gas with electrical appliances.
- 5.2.3 Green energy can be produced or stored by the installation of:
 - a. photovoltaic panels;
 - b. wind generators;
 - c. solar water heaters; and,
 - d. batteries.
- 5.2.4 Green energy can be purchased from service providers.

5.3 Water Conservation

- 5.3.1 Watering of gardens, showers and toilets use the most water.
- 5.3.2 Water usage can be reduced by:
 - a. employing water-wise gardening techniques, by using native plants, mulching, using wetting agents, reducing lawn areas, and efficient use of reticulation systems; and,
 - b. using water-efficient appliances, showers and toilets.



- 5.3.3 Options for harvesting and using rainwater should be considered. Rainwater can be used for garden reticulation, toilets, and laundry purposes. Ways to reduce and redirect runoff from hard surfaces (e.g., carparks) should also be considered.

5.4 Waste and Recycling

- 5.4.1 Single-use plastic such as food plastic wrap, balloons, disposable plates, cups and cutlery are to be avoided.
- 5.4.2 Organic and garden waste should be composted.
- 5.4.3 The use of council recycling bins, “containers for change” and kerb side collections is encouraged. It is important to closely consider the recycling guidelines, so as not to contaminate the bins.
- 5.4.4 Op shops are a good avenue to recycle unwanted goods and Parish websites and the Diocesan website church directory should be used to promote these services. Parishes without permanent op shops may wish to consider pop-up shops or the occasional “jumble sale”.
- 5.4.5 Not-for-profit op shops (e.g., Anglicare WA as well as the Salvos, Vinnies, Para Quad, and Good Sammy’s) are recommended over commercial operations.

5.5 Conservation and Restoration of Biodiversity

- 5.5.1 Consideration should be given to habitats and species that may be affected by any development proposal or operations understanding the impact of destroying native habitats or introducing non-native plants and animals.
- 5.5.2 Parishes and other entities should consider the opportunities to partner with local community groups to engage in the restoration of local landscapes damaged by human activity.
- 5.5.3 Care should be taken when considering chemicals used in the environment including fertilisers, weed and pest control.

5.6 Transport

- 5.6.1 Where reasonably possible the impact on the environment should be minimised by seeking alternatives to the use of motor vehicles and air travel. Consider the use of public transport, cycling or walking. Parish websites and the Diocesan website church directory should highlight the public transport options relevant to each parish and other locations.
- 5.6.2 In purchasing or leasing a vehicle corporately or using the Diocesan motor vehicle allowance, low emission vehicles are strongly encouraged. *Policy 3 – Diocesan Council Funded Vehicles* is relevant.

5.7 Environmental Loans and Grants

- 5.7.1 The Anglican Community Fund (ACF) offers “Eco” Loans for Parishes to purchase approved environmentally friendly items for projects directed toward improving Environmental Sustainability. This might include such items as detailed in paragraphs 5.2.2 and 5.2.3.
- 5.7.2 Federal and State Governments frequently offer grants for projects directed toward improving Environmental Sustainability.



5.8 Assessing Carbon Footprint

- 5.8.1 The carbon footprint of a parish, site or building can be assessed either over its life cycle (which includes the carbon associated with construction and demolition) or on an operational basis (the carbon produced during normal daily activities).
- 5.8.2 The following component figures may be used to calculate operational carbon footprint:

Unit	Indicative Carbon Rates (tonnes per annum)
10000 kWh of Electricity	7
10000 Units of Natural Gas	2
Small car (13,000km)	1.6
Large car (13,000km)	3

- 5.5.3 The following operational carbon footprint information is provided as a guide:

Building / Site	Indicative Carbon Produced (tonnes per annum)
Average Australian Household	15-20
Average Australian Individual	6-8
Small Rural Church	3
Medium Church or Hall	11
Large Urban Church	25

5.9 Offsetting Carbon Footprint

- 5.9.1 Parishes and other entities may wish to consider offsetting their carbon footprint.
- 5.9.2 Five trees will roughly offset one tonne of carbon per annum, and the cost of purchasing trees through mass planting agencies is approximately \$5 per tree. So, for example, the average Australian household would need to purchase approximately 75-100 trees for \$375-\$500, to offset their carbon footprint.
- 5.9.3 As part of its sustainability focus, the ADP has currently partnered with [Trillion Trees Australia](#), a not-for-profit environmental restoration organisation, to contribute to the Trillion Trees Challenge. The challenge aims to plant a trillion new growth trees to help address climate change through ecosystem restoration. The community-based organisation has been active since 1979 in Western Australia and has planted more than 15 million native trees with the help of 80,000 volunteers. Trees planted can informally attribute a carbon sequestration value.



5.9.4 Parishes and other Diocesan entities who wish to purchase trees through this avenue should complete the [Carbon Offset Notification Form](#), at the same time funds are transferred to the nominated account (see form for account details).

5.9.5 A consolidated report will be generated annually, which will attribute a carbon sequestration value to each parish or Diocesan entity and provide evidence of trees planted provided by Trillion Trees Australia.

5.10 Further Information

5.10.1 The Diocesan website contains useful links and information which support this policy at [Resources/Environmental Sustainability](#).

5.11 Guideline Updates

5.11.1 Section 5 of this policy (Guidelines) and the Carbon Offset Notification Form may be updated from time to time with the approval of the Diocesan Secretary.

Forms:

[Carbon Offset Notification Form](#)