

THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

a) Introduction

The Churches Conservation Trust's statutory responsibility is to ensure that the historic church buildings in its care are available to be enjoyed and understood for generations to come. Our church buildings are significantly affected by changes in the environment in which they exist. These two factors alone put environmental sustainability at the core of our work.

This policy aims to highlight the areas where the Trust can affect environmental sustainability and set out practicable ways of doing so for staff, Trustees and volunteers.

b) Environmental Principles

The Trust will promote the sustainable management of the properties for which it is responsible and sustainable practice in its operations and resourcing. In all its activities it will seek to:

1. conserve resources and protect the global climate, for example, by the appropriate use of energy and selection/procurement of materials.
2. minimise the impact on the environment from its activities by reducing waste, minimising energy consumption and travel, using environmentally friendly products and reusing or recycling to the maximum extent practicable.
3. conform with all relevant legislation and standards and aspire to best practice where these do not exist.
4. promote practices that deliver environmental benefits, encouraging the use of sustainable sources for new materials, sustainable transport by visitors to our churches and energy efficiency where new services are installed.

Where there is an apparent potential conflict between improved environmental sustainability and other policy priorities, for example economic efficiency or use of traditional conservation materials, due regard and weight will be given to the long term implications for the Trust and the global climate, of the decision made.

This policy will be made widely available including to partner and funding bodies, staff and volunteers. Adherence to this policy will be a requirement of all new contracts, leases and other agreements with partners and subcontractors.

It will be reviewed annually in consultation with all affected.

c) Responsibilities

Overall responsibility for this policy is held by the Board of Trustees. The Senior Management Team will ensure its implementation, monitoring and review.

All staff have a responsibility to ensure this policy is at the heart of their work and decision-making. For example, Conservation Managers commissioning repairs and introduction of services, Development staff managing the use of churches and all staff in their use of transport to get to sites.

d) Targets

Each year the Senior Management Team will agree targets with staff to take forward the aims of this policy. In the first years these will be around:

- use of sustainable construction materials especially wood
- Reuse of construction waste arising
- Use of recycled paper for internal and external publications
- Office recycling of glass, aluminium, plastic, paper and ink jet cartridges
- Minimising energy consumption e.g. low energy bulbs, reducing office temperature, minimising use of air conditioning
- Purchase of renewable energy
- Minimising water consumption e.g. not leaving taps running/sprinkler taps.
- Reducing private car mileage as proportion of distance travelled on Trust business or by visitors to Trust churches

e) Objectives for 2005/6

As a first step, the four key objectives for this year are to:

1. investigate renewable energy sources for office and the four fully custodied churches Lead: Conservation Team
2. production of an environmental plan for the head office at West Smithfield to maximise recycling, energy efficiency and waste reduction Lead: Resources Manager
3. dissemination of this policy where it affects repairs to consultants and contractors Lead: Senior Management TEam
4. Provision of information on public transport links to 50 most visited churches through website and leaflets as they are reprinted Lead: Public Affairs team

Approved by Board of Trustees: