

Haddon Hall Baptist Church



SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love. By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth (Psalm 33:5-6)



**Haddon
Hall**

Why we need a sustainability policy

The Bible teaches us that God has created an awesome and majestic cosmos to bring Him praise and glory. The creativity and scientific mastery manifest throughout creation reveals God's character – his power, wisdom and love. Caring for God's creation is an act of worship.

Jesus has redeemed the whole earth through his death and resurrection. We have a special responsibility to care for God's creation so that human and all other life is sustained in harmony.

Our vision is to *'see lives transformed by Jesus' love and power'*.

This includes restoring the world's broken relationship with God's creation by acting in sustainable and just ways. The climate change emergency means that we must act with urgency and seriousness, as we also seek a greener and more just recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Developing a sustainability policy will help us work towards taking sustainability and justice into account in all of our life and work - in mission, worship, teaching, personal discipleship, financial and buildings management, administration and projects.



How we developed this policy

Children and adults from every group within the Haddon community were invited to share their ideas. The Haddon Eco-Church group used this feedback and guidance from eco-church resources to create a first draft of the policy. This was reviewed by Haddon members, redrafted and adopted in July 2021.

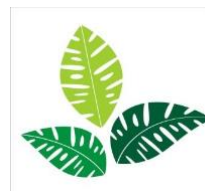
This policy was also informed by three principles:

The Bible calls us to **solidarity** – to stand alongside those most at risk from the effects of injustice and the climate crisis - poorer communities and countries, the non-human world and future generations.

The policy also has an emphasis on **valuing local**. God has placed us in our neighbourhoods and communities to be his salt and light. Connecting and supporting locally forms part of our vision to '*catch God's passion for our local area and beyond*'.

Caring for God's creation requires an attitude of **sufficiency** that recognises the limits to human economic growth and the negative effects of consumerism. Human development should 'meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'¹.

¹ Brundtland Report, 1987



Our Actions

In Church life, we will

- ✓ commit to regular teaching, prayer and worship for all ages and groups around themes of climate, justice and care for creation
- ✓ increase understanding of ethical and sustainable issues, promote sharing, repurposing and reusing, and cultivate sustainable and ethical attitudes towards consumption
- ✓ undertake a regular sustainability audit
- ✓ encourage church members to take action in their personal lives
- ✓ work towards an Eco-Church award and promote our commitment to sustainability and ethical living generally

Managing buildings and land, we will

- ✓ prioritise suppliers and contractors who take sustainability and ethical concerns into account
- ✓ encourage the greening of church land and buildings and careful use of landscaping to support wildlife and reduce pollution, water run-off and heat island effect
- ✓ inform users of the building about our sustainable and ethical aspirations and encourage appropriate responses and behaviours
- ✓ provide guidance around recycling, energy and water-saving throughout the building
- ✓ encourage greater use of the building as a community asset
- ✓ take into account the energy required to make as well as use any product or service we might buy
- ✓ explore opportunities to transition away from gas to efficient electric heat sources
- ✓ limit the use of volatile organic compounds and other harmful chemicals to improve indoor air quality
- ✓ adopt statutory policies and guidance around good environmental practice wherever possible

To save energy and maximise energy efficiency, we will

- ✓ use renewably generated electricity/biogas suppliers
- ✓ use thermostats for temperature control
- ✓ improve insulation wherever practicable or seek grants to do so
- ✓ turn off lights, appliances and computers when not in use
- ✓ fit LED low-energy light bulbs and other energy saving technology
- ✓ explore installing solar panels and generating green energy

To reduce waste and pollution, we will

- ✓ use sustainable products rather than disposable/single use items
- ✓ use recycled paper and reduce our use of paper where possible
- ✓ avoid plastic packaging where possible
- ✓ recycle waste, with recycling points inside and outside the building and if necessary taking it to collection points
- ✓ re-use, repair and recondition items where feasible
- ✓ use low environmental impact cleaning materials and avoid artificial fertilisers and pesticides

To avoid wasting water and use water wisely, we will

- ✓ encourage users of the building to be careful with their use of water and to avoid wasting water
- ✓ install water meters where appropriate and check regularly for leaks
- ✓ fit water-minimising systems to taps and toilet cisterns
- ✓ collect rainwater, wherever possible

To promote environmentally-friendly travel and transport, we will

- ✓ encourage walking, cycling, using public transport and sharing cars where possible
- ✓ rent electric vehicles when hiring transport for church events where possible
- ✓ explore options to provide car charging and bicycle parking

In our financial management and giving, we will

- ✓ use ethical/ecologically responsible banking wherever possible
- ✓ budget for eco-audits and other sustainability costs and activities
- ✓ offer nominal rental rates for priority groups
- ✓ give to climate change/ sustainability organisations and projects

When we make purchases, as far as possible we will

- ✓ buy fairly traded and sustainably produced/ eco-friendly goods
- ✓ buy from reputable local businesses/sources and encourage them to source fair-trade and eco-friendly goods
- ✓ avoid purchases with excessive plastic packaging

In our community and global engagement, we will

- ✓ get involved as individuals or as a church community in local environmental/justice initiatives
- ✓ support and affiliate with national/international organisations addressing climate justice
- ✓ participate in local and global campaigns, recognising the need for larger-scale political action to complement the efforts of individuals

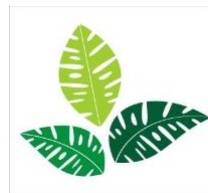


How we will implement this policy

The eco-church group will take the lead in helping the church to implement these actions. The group will provide guidance to church workers and members with leadership responsibilities as they develop plans to implement the policy in their areas of work.

They will also develop resources for all church members, including an accessible version of the policy that will include tips and stories from church members and a directory of local suppliers of ethical and eco-friendly goods. The eco-church group will undertake an annual review of our progress towards implementing actions.

The earth is the Lord's and
everything in it, the world and
all who live in it
Psalm 24:1





This is a word tree that is composed of the ideas suggested by everyone at Haddon as part of their response to the policy consultation