



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OF THE SOUTHEND AND LEIGH CIRCUIT

1. The Southend and Leigh Circuit of the Methodist Church affirms the 2019 Methodist Conference's recognition of a Climate Emergency and its call for the UK to achieve net zero emission well before 2050.¹ The Circuit embraces the aspirational target of the Methodist Church to become a net zero carbon emissions Circuit by 2030.²
2. In order to achieve this vision, the Circuit:
 - (a) Affirms its commitment to being an Eco Circuit registered with A Rocha UK.
 - (b) Encourages our local churches to become Eco churches.
 - (c) Appoints an environmental lead/group to support and encourage Circuit churches, as well as report to the Circuit Meeting on progress towards fulfilling the objectives of this environmental policy.
3. As part of its commitment to being an Eco Circuit, the Circuit will:
 - (a) Manage Circuit Manses and any Circuit Property [including the Circuit Office] in a manner which is mindful of environmental issues.
 - (b) Aim that all its manses meet a minimum of a 'C' energy efficiency rating.
 - (c) Provide information and resources from the Circuit Office to enable ministers and church members to reflect theologically on environmental issues.
 - (d) Maintain its finances through the ethical funds provided by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.
 - (e) Record and celebrate environmental initiatives within Circuit Newsletter.
 - (f) Aim to achieve the Methodist Church Targets of having 50% of Circuit churches registered for Eco Church, by 2026, with 40% of registered churches gaining an Eco Church award.
4. In practical terms the Circuit will:
 - (a) Invites local churches to hold special services that focus on environmental issues, alongside Harvest Festivals.
 - (b) Encourage the use of public transport or car sharing wherever possible to attend Circuit-level meetings. Consideration will be given to the location of meetings.
 - (c) Make use of Zoom video conferencing for Circuit-level meetings, wherever possible to minimise carbon emissions, and generally use electronic communications in preference to paper.
 - (d) Promotes the principle of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, within the Circuit Office, and encourages the use of environmentally friendly cleaning materials.

- (e) Encourages Circuit Meetings to prayerfully consider our human impact on the environment as an integral part of their agenda.
- (f) Encourages local churches to consider switching to a renewable energy provider.
- (g) Invites local churches to adhere to the above principles and develop their own environmental policy.
- (h) Offer funding to local churches for EPC's (Energy Performance Certificates).

5. Across the Circuit we wish to see local churches:

- (a) Recognise that Christians are responsible for the good stewardship and care of God's earth by embedding sustainability in our activities and reflecting on the environmental consequences of our decision-making.
- (b) Make care for the environment integral to our worship of God, teaching and an agenda item on Church Councils.
- (c) Actively progress the implementation of sound environmental practice in all our activities.
- (d) Reduce the environmental impact of church buildings and activities.
- (e) Develop church land in ways that benefit the environment and the local community.
- (f) Engage with local and global agencies in seeking a fairer, more environmentally friendly world, and with the political process to generate action to protect and restore the planet.
- (g) Develop lifestyles which reflect the aims and objectives of this environmental policy.

Policy Adopted by Circuit Meeting on **20/03/2025**

Signed  _____

Revd Peter Moorhouse

Southend and Leigh Circuit Superintendent

Notes:

¹[Methodist Church recognises a climate emergency](#)

²[Methodist Church to become zero emissions church](#)