

## **A Green Policy Statement for Southernhay Church**

Care for the environment is a key Christian duty, expressed by the Church as the need for careful stewardship of our natural world as we seek sustainable development and the pursuit of peace with social justice.

As a community of Christians, Southernhay Church is committed to the protection and enhancement of the environment and to encouraging a serious approach to achieving this. For example, our society's dependence on fossil fuels is ultimately unsustainable and we recognise the need to move toward more sustainable sources of energy. We are clear that our environmental policy is not just about Church activities, but also about encouraging and supporting one another to live in an environmentally responsible way.

Our aim is to review and assess the environmental impact of all the activities of Southernhay Church, and, as far as it is practical, to eliminate, minimize or mitigate any environmental damage caused by such activities. These actions will include, but not be limited to:-

- Ensuring that environmental factors are considered as an integral part of the planning and implementation of all future developments at Southernhay
- Seeking to ensure that we source products and services that are environmentally responsible and sustainable
- Protecting the environment by aiming to prevent, or to minimise, the pollution of land, air and water
- Seeking to keep waste to a minimum, ensuring the efficient use of materials and natural resources, and recycling or disposing of all waste in a responsible manner
- Encouraging our worshippers, visitors, and outside organisations to be aware of their environmental and social responsibilities and to play their part as custodians of the environment
- Maintaining an awareness of technological developments, monitoring and continuously seeking to minimise our environmental impact
- Communicating our performance and progress on a regular basis, including through Church and Elders' Meetings, and via People and News

The statement will be regularly reviewed and updated as necessary by the Elders and Church Meeting. All members and friends of Southernhay Church are invited to play their part in helping to achieve these aims and objectives. The sharing of practical ideas will be particularly welcome.

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