

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OF

St. Margaret's Church & Community Hall, Wrexham



*“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”
Genesis 2:15*

1. Introduction and Statement of Intent

- 1.1 The Environmental Policy of St. Margaret's Church and Community Hall describes our commitment to comply with all the laws and regulations concerning environmental issues, including air and water pollution, waste management and the protection of natural resources. It is our aspiration to adopt the highest standards of good environmental practice that are currently recommended by official bodies, subject to our financial limitations.
- 1.2 As a Christian organisation, we recognise that we have a responsibility to care for our planet so that human life and all God's creatures may be sustained in harmony. We will endeavour to reduce any negative impact that we may have on the environment, and to continually improve our environmental performance as an integral part of our operations. We will also encourage our clients, suppliers and other stakeholders to do the same and compliance with this policy will be a condition of hire.

2. Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 *Use of Natural Resources* We will seek to reduce the amount of energy and water that we use, to the lowest level that is practicable. Wherever possible in our activities, we will seek to use natural materials that come from a sustainable source.
- 2.2 *Waste Minimisation* We will make efforts to reduce any waste generated, to the minimum that is practicable, and to promote recycling.
- 2.3 *Control of Pollutants* We will act responsibly to control any emissions and any toxic or undesirable materials that may be generated by our actions.
- 2.4 *Biodiversity* We will manage the land surrounding the hall to maintain and improve it as a habitat for wildlife, in accordance with the principles of sustainability.
- 2.5 *Noise* We will take action to ensure that the noise generated by any activity is not allowed to reach a level that may be considered by the local authority to be intrusive to our neighbours.

3. Carrying out the Aims

- 3.1 *Use of Natural Resources* The efficient use of energy and water will be promoted by encouraging staff and clients to switch off lights, heating and appliances when not required. Smart meters for both gas and electricity will be fitted. We will purchase electricity from a verified source that is 100% renewable. We will improve insulation and conserve energy wherever practicable and affordable. A cisterniser and non-concussive taps will be fitted to the cloakrooms. Conventional light bulbs will be phased out and replaced by LED bulbs. Daylight shut-off and movement sensors will be fitted to operate the lighting systems wherever appropriate. We will promote the use of any timber or paper products that come from a renewable source.
- 3.2 *Waste Minimisation* Users will be encouraged to use the crockery and cutlery provided, rather than bringing disposable items such as single-use plastic plates and cups. Bins will be provided for the collection of any recyclable materials. We will use recycled paper or emails for correspondence whenever we can.
- 3.3 *Control of Pollutants* The main boiler and other water heaters will be serviced annually to ensure that they comply with current standards. Notices in the kitchen and toilets will remind users not to dispose of undesirable substances (such as fats, oils, wet wipes, etc) through sinks and drains. We will use cleaning materials sparingly, and then only those with a low environmental impact.
- 3.4 *Biodiversity* We will retain the boundary hedge and trim it only once a year, ensuring that this operation is carried out at a time when nesting birds will not be disturbed. All the resulting green waste will be recycled, shredded or composted. The composting area and the adjacent nettle patch will be retained as such for its value to insects and invertebrates. A few trees will be planted within the grounds, where they have

sufficient space to grow to maturity. Part of the existing car parking area will be retained as grass, rather than converting it all to hard surface.

- 3.5 Noise It is a condition of hiring the hall that noise levels must be kept below what is considered to be reasonable. Any member of the Committee is entitled to switch off the power supply if action is not taken immediately by the user to reduce the noise when requested to do so.

4. Review of Progress

- 4.1 Use of Natural Resources Smart meters have been fitted. 100% of our electricity is now supplied from a renewable source. New double glazed windows and a new energy efficient lighting system were installed in 2014. It is planned to install water saving systems to cisterns and taps in 2020. Progress has been made in replacing conventional light bulbs, but more remains to be done as and when practicable.

- 4.2 Waste Minimisation The proposals are being implemented.

- 4.3 Control of Pollutants The proposals are being implemented.

- 4.4 Biodiversity The proposals are being implemented. Two semi-mature Birch trees have been planted to date.

- 4.5 Noise The proposals are being implemented.

5. Updating the Policy

- 5.1 Any proposed changes to this policy shall be approved by the Hall Committee. This document will be revised at least every three years to reflect any agreed amendments and it will be dated accordingly, with only the latest version being considered as valid.

6. Validation

- 6.1 This document has been signed and dated below by two members of the committee.

Signature

Date

Signature

Date