The **North West England**
Methodist District

Environmental Policy

"Hope is a reason for bold action in the world in accordance with God's will for creation, not an excuse for inaction"

'Hope in God's Future' Report, adopted as a Conference Statement in 2011

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it"

Psalm 24 verse 1a

We commit ourselves and will encourage, enable, and support others to:

Speak truth to power in demanding climate action and justice

Work towards reducing carbon emissions and support our members to do the same

Increase the positive environmental impact of our activities

Attain a Bronze Eco-District award by 2027 and subsequently work towards higher awards

Introduction

The North West England Methodist District formed in September 2024 and considers environmental concern and action a priority in line with the 2021 resolution of the Methodist Church in Britain that:

> "*Conference wholeheartedly agrees and affirms that 'the global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation and a fundamental injustice'".*

We commit to act wherever we have direct responsibility, and to encourage, enable and support circuits, churches and individual members to take action where they are responsible. The District will review this policy towards the end of each Connexional year to ensure it remains relevant and accurate.

We acknowledge the excellence of the A Rocha Eco-Church (including Eco-Circuit and Eco-District) schemes in guiding Christians to embed gospel values in how we

- worship and teach,
- manage our buildings, energy use and land,
- engage with our community and globally and
- live out our lives in witness and service.

Rather than making another set of detailed recommendations we advocate engagement with this programme at all levels. We commit to working in partnership with Christians, those of other faiths and those with no faith, in addressing this challenge that confronts us all.

Speaking Truth to Power

We recognise that climate change is the result of structural sinfulness deeply embedded within our political and economic systems. We commit ourselves to the Biblical call to speak prophetically to those in power and will encourage and support churches, circuits and individual members to join us. We commit ourselves to climate justice for all.

Lifestyle-based Aims

We encourage circuits, churches and individual members to calculate their carbon footprint so they are aware of their environmental impact, and to take steps to reduce or offset the greenhouse gas emissions for which they are responsible where possible. We note that the Eco-Church scheme works with Climate Stewards and 360˚ Carbon in this respect. District meetings will take place via Zoom (or equivalent) when possible, to minimise travel. Where meetings need to be in-person, car sharing or public transport use will be encouraged.

Wisdom-based aims

Eco-church

The District will register as an Eco-District and work towards a Bronze award initially (this requires 15% of all churches to be registered, and 10% to have an award); expecting this to be achieved in a relatively short time as we already stand at 15% of churches with an award – which we rejoice in and give thanks for. We will then seek to progress towards Silver award then Gold award (for which requirements are higher). The District will encourage and support circuits and churches to engage with Eco-Circuit and Eco-Church, and will have a District Environment Group to co-ordinate our environmental action.

Annual Event

The District will hold at least one event each year addressing the climate emergency and our responsibilities to God's creation.

Positive investments

The District will ensure that any investments are held in funds managed by the Central Finance Board (CFB) of the Methodist Church which ensures that all funds are invested ethically and to make a positive impact on the environment. The District will strongly encourage churches and circuits to invest similarly.