

SLOUGH BAPTIST CHURCH POLICY	Eco-ethical Policy
POLICY NUMBER: SBCP-17	



Primary Responsibility:	Secretary	
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DISTRIBUTION

Original	Slough Baptist Church Office
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1. Purpose and Scope

Slough Baptist Church recognises the global ecological concerns and will encourage the urgent need for care of the planet. This policy outlines how SBC will act in an ethically positive manner in the choices that are made, and actions taken in regard to the stewardship of the environment and safeguarding of our planet.

We will encourage a greater biblical understanding of creation.

“The whole creation belongs to God. As human beings we are part of the whole and have a responsibility to love and care for what God has entrusted to us as temporary tenants of the planet. We are called to conserve its complex and fragile ecology, whilst recognising the need for responsible and sustainable development and the pursuit of social justice.” — Church of England National Institutions

2. Definition of Eco-ethicality

Ecology is defined as the study of the interactions between organisms and their environment. Eco-ethicality can be defined as living and acting in a way that inflicts minimal or no harm on the environment; adding the least to global environmental problems and choosing actions and behaviours that can be evaluated as ‘morally the right thing to do’.

3. Principles

SBC Trustees and employees will take account of eco-ethical considerations when making decisions about capital investments, new developments, utilities, premises, building repairs and procurement of consumables.

SBC Trustees and employees are encouraged to use the list of questions in Appendix 1 to determine whether any decisions or purchases have a sound eco-ethical basis or approach.

Appendix 1

Energy

- have environmentally friendly and energy efficient alternatives been considered when making decisions leading to the replacement or development of church infrastructures and utilities?
- have environmentally friendly utility suppliers been considered prior to the expiration of contracts or review periods?
- has consideration been given to carbon management by converting to renewable energy sources and cutting the amount of greenhouse gas emissions?
- has consideration been given to improving the energy efficiency ratings of existing buildings?

Water

- has consideration been given to the efficient and careful use of water?
- is there a mechanism in place to avoid pollutants entering the drainage system?

Waste

- has consideration been given to the reduction in the production of material waste including unnecessary packaging?
- has the re-use, repair and recycling of materials, including organic waste been considered?
- is waste being disposed in a safe and responsible way?
- is the procurement of products made in accordance with the principle of using material in a sustainable way, where possible?
- has consideration been given to maximising the proportion of paper used from sustainable sources and recycled materials?
- has consideration been given to offering electronic communication as an alternative to paper for those who are suitably equipped?

Building and land

- has consideration been given to the effective use of the church premises in planning activities and scheduling groups?
- have the whole life costs of materials been considered when repairing, altering or rebuilding premises?
- has the environmental impact of any future plans been considered?
- do any current and proposed activities comply with all relevant building regulations?

Environment

- do any current and proposed activities comply with all relevant environmental regulations?
- has the impact of church activities on the local environment been considered?

Transport and travel

- has consideration been given to reducing air pollution and energy consumption by avoiding unnecessary travel and by the use of energy efficient vehicles?

Procurement and supplies

- has consideration been given to the environmental, economic and social impact along with price and quality?
- has consideration been given to unacceptable practices in the supply chain such as fraud, corruption, modern-day slavery, human trafficking and wider issues such as child labour?
- have ethically traded products been considered?