



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 the actions that are taken in regard to the stewardship of the environment and safeguarding of our planet.

2. Definition of Eco-ethicity

Ecology is defined as the study of the interactions between organisms and their environment. Eco-ethicity can be defined as living and acting in a way that inflicts zero or minimal 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 will seek to do the morally right thing as part of our witness. Our actions and teaching 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

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 below to ensure that decisions or purchases have a sound eco-ethical basis or approach.

Energy

- 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 energy efficiency been considered before purchasing new appliances?
- 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 been considered?
- Can food wastes be sent for composting or anaerobic digestion?
- Is waste being disposed in a safe and responsible way?
- Are sustainable products considered during the procurement process? For example, 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?
- Have eco-ethical energy usage, waste management and procurement been considered when planning building projects?

Transport and Travel

- Has consideration been given to reducing air pollution and energy consumption by avoiding unnecessary travel and by the use of zero emission or high efficiency vehicles?

Procurement and supplies

- Has consideration been given to environmental, economic and social impact along with price and quality?
- Has consideration been given to avoiding 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?