

St. Augustine's – Parkland Anglican Church

Environmental Policy

September 2018

Affirmation

We affirm these elements of our faith:

- Through Christ, God has created an awesome and majestic planet with a myriad of inhabitants and species to bring Him praise and glory. We are but one part of His created order and are wholly responsible for its stewardship.
- Jesus has redeemed the whole earth through His death and resurrection.
- We recognize that we have a special responsibility to care for the Earth so that human life and all God's creatures may be sustained in harmony.

Aim

As a local church community, we aim to take the practical steps necessary to realize the Fifth Mark of Mission of the Anglican Church of Canada, which is "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain the life of the earth."

Objective

As a church community, we will take environmental concerns into account in our mission, worship, study, education, training, pastoral, administrative and other projects and programs.

Actions

1. With each annual change in vestry, one person will be appointed by vestry as our Environmental Officer/Champion. This person will lead our program and we will encourage him or her to bring relevant environmental issues and concerns forward to vestry and the congregation whenever necessary.
2. We will include our concern for world sustainability in our worship and teaching.
3. We will annually undertake an environmental and energy audit of the church premises and property, identify the most significant issues and impacts which should be addressed and make and implement plans and programs to tackle them, recognizing that some additional costs may be incurred to minimize environmental impacts. (See partial lists below).
4. We will work with others in our local community to identify environmental issues which should be addressed in our area and help develop actions to tackle them.
5. We will be environmentally responsible and seek to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of the electricity and gas used in church premises by:
 - a. Using, whenever possible, "green" energy suppliers
 - b. Using, wherever possible, LED light bulbs
 - c. Improving insulation, wherever practicable
 - d. Turning off lights, appliances, and computers when not in use
 - e. Replacing old, inefficient furnaces and water heaters where practicable

- f. We will encourage our staff and congregation wherever possible to use forms of transport to work, meetings etc. which have minimum or reduced environmental impact (e.g. walk, cycle, public transport, ride-sharing, electric vehicles)
- g. We will seek ways to reduce material consumption and the impact of our activities on the environment by, wherever possible:
 - i. using email rather than printing and sending hard copies
 - ii. using recycled paper and printing on both sides of pages, if possible
 - iii. avoiding the use of paper plates and other consumables where a more environmentally-friendly alternative is available
 - iv. reusing/repairing items
 - v. acquiring goods with recyclable container materials and then actually submitting them to our local recycling programs – but only when the use of such materials cannot be avoided altogether
 - vi. using low environmental impact cleaning materials
 - vii. engaging in composting, either on the church premises or using a local program
 - viii. refraining from using as much one-time-use plastic as possible, including plastic bags, packaging, plastic eating utensils, plastic or plastic-coated cups, condiment containers (e.g. salad dressing, ketchup), bottled water, straws, stirrers, etc.
- h. We will avoid using water unnecessarily through unnecessary washing, prudent fixing of leaks in pipes, toilets, and taps
- i. We will encourage individual members of our congregations to take actions in their personal lives to complement and supplement these actions of the church community

This policy and program will be reviewed every three years, in light of developments and advancements, with the next review being October of 2021.