

Environmental Policy Framework

This policy framework establishes the commitment of the Diocese of Nottingham, and its seven constituent charitable Trusts, to fulfil Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* and other papal teachings on the care of creation.

We recognise this decade to 2030 both as a time of grace and growth in 'encounter, discipleship and missionary discipleship', and as a critical time for addressing the global climate and ecological emergency. Our response to each will inform the other.

We acknowledge our duty to protect creation and its biodiversity, contribute to a just transition to a net-zero carbon economy, and help humanity adapt to environmental change. We will make every effort to ensure that all activities and developments within the Trustees' control and influence protect, and where possible, restore the integrity of creation. We endeavour to provide leadership by example to Catholic people and for the benefit of society at large.

Accordingly we commit:

1. **Formation:** to proclaim and promote the Church's teaching on integral ecology and stimulate participation in practical action so that parishes and schools, together with their parishioners, especially young people and families, can grow in discipleship, live lives which honour God's Creation, and play their part in this environmental policy framework
2. **Decarbonisation:** to eliminate carbon emissions as quickly as possible from our activities and assets, endeavouring by 2030 to reach net-zero carbon for diocesan, parish and school operations
3. **Biodiversity:** to safeguard and restore biodiversity on our sites and indirectly through procurement and other decisions

4. **Resources:** to use water, raw materials and other natural resources as efficiently as possible, and to minimise waste through repair, re-use and recycling
5. **Ethics:** to ensure that in protecting the Earth, our common home, we also uphold justice, peace and human rights
6. **Conformity:** to bring into alignment with this policy other policies and practices in the diocese, including those for asset and investment management (and current portfolios), travel, diet, hospitality and procurement, taking account where possible impacts which are the responsibility of third parties, indirect suppliers, families and users, and the lifecycle impacts of capital works
7. **Resilience:** to promote resilience among Catholic communities and in society at large, particularly through preparation for environmental risks and losses, pastoral care, evangelisation, and the deployment of our own assets
8. **Advocacy:** to advocate action in society at large in accordance with the Gospel and Catholic social teaching, for a just transition to a sustainable economy, and in solidarity with those at greatest risk worldwide.

We invite the prayer and participation of the entire diocesan community, and particularly young people. A Diocesan steering group representing all Trusts will co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of this policy, and each Trust will review progress against these commitments annually.