



**Diocese of Leeds Trustee  
Leeds Diocesan Trust**

**ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STATEMENT**

In 2015 Pope Francis issued his encyclical *'Laudato Si'* "On Care of Our Common Home". This Environmental Policy is our response, based on the Gospels and Catholic Social Teaching, and it forms a crucial part of our Mission to all people of goodwill in the area of the Diocese of Leeds. This policy is the cornerstone of our intent, as a body of people committed to 'hearing the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth', and working for climate justice at this critical time. Through this policy we commit:-

1. To review all our activities and to identify, understand and establish the direct and indirect environmental effects in order to prioritise action plans to minimise negative impacts.
2. To reduce energy and resource use by promoting effective and efficient reduction methods.
3. To reduce our impact upon the environment by minimising our use of the earth's natural resources and by reducing our carbon footprint.
4. To minimise the impact of waste through avoiding waste generation and through recovery, re-use and recycling when wastage is unavoidable.
5. To make the best and most efficient use of the finite natural resources used in all of our activities.
6. To comply with all legislation and regulations about the environment and to exceed these requirements where appropriate.
7. To encourage our suppliers and contractors to ensure that goods and services we obtain support the environmental policy.
8. To enhance the biodiversity of all Diocesan-owned grounds and gardens.
9. To study the scriptures, Catholic tradition and environmental issues with theological and practical reflection, leading to regular thanksgiving for creation, confession of the sin that damages it and prayer for the natural world and for those involved in its use and care so that all in the Diocese of Leeds appreciate the importance of demonstrating care for our common home, the Earth.
10. To ensure the Mission of the Church locally, and on a Diocesan level, includes speaking about the urgency of environmental concerns in line with the living out of the Gospel in people's lives, and exercising the prophetic voice of the Church in support of appropriate environmental action, such that the views of the Church are heard and widely understood.
11. To measure and reduce our environmental footprint related to:
  - Travel;
  - Energy use;
  - Water use;
  - Waste; and
  - Other materials use and associated emissions
12. To regularly check our way of working at a Diocesan and Parish level so we know whether we are achieving the objectives set out above.

Progress against the Environmental Policy, and related actions, will be reported on each year in the Annual Report of the Leeds Diocesan Trust.

Review Date	Description of Changes	Approval Date
	Policy Approved	March 2020
November 2020	No changes identified	15.12.20