

WEBNET ENVIRONMENT POLICY 2022

CONTEXT

Scripture: The Bible begins with God declaring his creation good and goes on to present the universe as a temple deserving of our respect and care. Jesus Christ demonstrated a lifestyle of simplicity and sharing within a Kingdom that would, one day, “bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ” (Eph 1:10). These scriptures, and the Jesus they present, provide the foundation for all Baptist beliefs and practices, including those related to our interactions with the natural world.

Ecclesiology: Each Baptist Church, under the guidance of the Spirit, mediated through the corporate discernment of its members, has the freedom to interpret how the scriptures guide them in creation care. Webnet shall not insist that churches engage in creation care, in any particular way, but will do all they can to promote it.


Core convictions: Across Webnet our churches have been encouraged to align their particular life and outreach with our more general core convictions. These convictions provide a good framework for how we should engage with issues of creation care and environmental justice.

Webnet Development & Action Plan 2021-2026: Creation stewardship policy and development is a core priority within the current Webnet action plan.

Premises: Webnet does not own its own premises but relies on individual Baptist churches to provide it with office accommodation and venues for other events and meetings.

PRINCIPLES

- To comply with environmental legislation.
- To encourage the appreciation of, and care for, God’s creation throughout the network.
- To pray for, speak out about and take action to address the problems of climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental damage.
- To minimise the use of finite natural resources (including water) and use, as far as possible, renewable or recycled resources (applying the dictum: *reduce, reuse, recycle.*)
- To minimise waste (including the avoidance of disposable plastics).
- To minimise energy use from travel (where travel cannot be avoided, to explore using public transport, car-sharing, electric cars, cycling, walking, etc).
- To apply ethical and green procurement procedures and use fairly traded and environmentally friendly products.
- To manage investments in line with ethical principles.
- To look for opportunities to work in partnership with individuals and organisations of goodwill in order to maximise the effectiveness of our efforts.

 webnet west of england baptist network	Environment Policy			
	SharePoint Name 221208 Environment Policy	Version No. 1	Date 08/12/22	Page No. 1

COMMITMENTS

- For Webnet to be carbon net zero by 2030
- To incorporate an appreciation and concern for God’s creation within the worship and events organised by Webnet and within decisions made by the organisation.
- To ensure that the Webnet offices at Little Stoke Baptist Church and staff activities are managed in ways that minimize the impact on the environment.
- To formally appoint a member of the Webnet staff as an environmental “lead” who will oversee action within the central office and liaise with the Webnet’s reps on the Baptist Union Environment Network (BUEN).
- To encourage member churches to register and work towards Arocha’s Eco-Church awards, with an aim to have 50% of churches registered by 2026.
- To ensure that information about creation care, examples of best practice, theological reflection on environmental issues and messages of encouragement are regularly provided to member churches via Webnet updates, etc... (This responsibility may be delegated to the Webnet “lead” and BUEN reps).
- To collaborate with global and regional organisations in campaigning on environmental issues and implementing initiatives that foster creation care and sustainable living.
- To produce an annual action plan to ensure the policy is implemented and evaluated

Author/s	R Durrant/ K Durrant	Annual Review	December
Approved on behalf of the Trustees		Date	08/12/22

 webnet west of england baptist network	Environment Policy			
	SharePoint Name 221208 Environment Policy	Version No. 1	Date 08/12/22	Page No. 2