



POLICY AND PROCEDURES



Effective: Date 13/08/14

Congregational Sustainable Practice

1 Introduction

In response to policies adopted by the Uniting Church Assembly and the Synod of Western Australia:

- Synod Resolutions 29/2001 advocating sustainable policy and practice
- Synod resolution 51/2005 Energy and sustainability
- Synod resolution 59/2007 Modelling Sustainability

the Synod encourages all congregations to minimise their impact on the environment by preventing pollution and continually improving our environmental performance by increasing communication and awareness of our efforts in accordance with this policy and fostering environmentally responsible behaviour amongst our members and the wider community.

We ask each congregation to accept that they have an obligation to demonstrate good environmental stewardship and social responsibility to the community, as we recognize the need for responsible and sustainable development and the pursuit of social justice.

2 Objective

The principle objective of the **Congregational Sustainable Practice Policy** is to

- Reduce the impact of the activities of the Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Western Australia upon the environment as measured by our carbon pollution, water and energy use.

3 Scope

This policy applies to

- Congregations in the Synod/Presbytery of Western Australia

4 Responsibilities

In conjunction with Synod agencies, congregations are responsible for

- 4.1 Fostering an environmentally responsible culture throughout the congregation and encouraging members to develop new ideas and initiatives;
- 4.2 Reducing the energy and water intensity of their operations;
- 4.3 Purchasing Green Power;
- 4.4 Reducing the amount of waste the congregation produces, and maximising the amount reused and recycled;
- 4.5 Moving as far as practicable towards the use and production of electronic rather than paper based resources and records.
- 4.6 Making environmentally-sound purchasing decisions for capital items and consumables;
- 4.7 Preventing and minimise pollution from their activities;
- 4.8 Reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with travel and encouraging the use of public transport and car-pooling.

- 4.9 Striving for continual improvement in the congregation's environmental performance and empowering members to minimise our environmental impacts through regular reporting, generating awareness, and encouraging participation and feedback;
- 4.10 Encouraging others to adopt environmentally sustainable practices by sharing our knowledge and promoting behavioural change, through community awareness and leading by example.

5 Procedure

- 5.1 Congregation makes a commitment to comply with the sustainable practice policy and reports this commitment to the Synod via the General Secretary after a congregational meeting.
- 5.2 Congregation engages in a study of the "[For the sake of the planet and all its people](#)" and [The Rights of Nature and the Rights of Future Generations](#) policies.
- 5.3 The congregation starts to measure its environmental footprint
- 5.4 The congregation creates a strategy for reducing its environmental footprint
- 5.5 The congregation includes its environmental footprint in reports on congregational activity at the Annual Meeting of the congregation
- 5.6 Congregations are requested to send the reports to the General Secretary

6 Related Policies and Procedures

- Motor Vehicle Fleet Management Policy
- Air Travel Policy
- Sustainable Buildings Policy
- Landscaping Policy