



POLICY AND PROCEDURES



Effective: Date 13/08/14

Policy on Sustainability and Motor Vehicle Fleet management

1 Introduction

Motor vehicles are a significant source of air pollutants that cause smog and unhealthy air conditions. This air pollution causes asthma, cancer, heart disease, birth defects, and brain damage. In addition, these vehicles emit close to one-third of the country's total annual carbon dioxide emissions. By consuming vast amounts of petroleum fuel, motor vehicles reduce Australia's energy security.

The Uniting Church's concern for Creation will guide our decisions in all areas of our life together so that, as far as is practicable, we can reduce damage to our environment and increase the sustainability of our work together.

2 Objective

The Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Western Australia will reduce its carbon footprint by reducing its fleet related greenhouse gas emissions.

3 Scope

This policy applies to

- Fleet vehicle purchases by the Synod of Western Australia and associated agencies

4 Responsibilities

Fleet managers and Church centre staff will reduce the negative human and environmental impacts of vehicles through:

- trip planning and reduction (for example by Car-pooling),
- improved maintenance and operation of conventional vehicles,
- use of fuel-efficient vehicles,
- replacement of gasoline and diesel with clean, low-carbon alternatives.

5 Procedure

a. Cost, Quality & Supply

In greening its fleet, the Synod will move towards new initiatives such as new hybrids, battery hybrid-electric and pure electric vehicles.

Helpful advice about comparisons between vehicle makes and models can be found at <http://www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au/GVGPublicUI/home.aspx>

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- Where the Synod cannot avoid carbon emissions we will offset them by practices designed to mitigate carbon emissions by contributing to the Offset Sustainability fund at the rate of \$23 per tonne.

The General Secretary will report on the application of this policy to the Synod in session and will chart the reductions in carbon footprint over time.

6 Related Policies and Procedures

- Air Travel Policy
- Congregation Sustainable Practice Policy
- Sustainable Buildings Policy
- Landscaping Policy