



POLICY AND PROCEDURES



Effective: Date 13/08/2014

Sustainable Buildings Policy

1 Introduction

The Synod of Western Australia owns and manages many buildings. It also commissions new buildings. 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.

Objective

The Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Western Australia will reduce its carbon footprint by reducing its greenhouse gas emissions occurred for the construction and maintenance and purchasing of buildings for church, school and agency use.

2 Scope

This policy applies to

- New and existing properties owned by the Synod of WA and associated agencies

3 Responsibilities

The Synod commits itself to:

- Introducing operational efficiencies in upgrades of its own building stock to achieve measurable environmental improvements, specifically looking at energy and water use.
- Develop and choose materials, techniques and practices that have an increasingly diminishing environmental footprint.
- Modify design and construction techniques in order to facilitate adaptation and re-use of materials and buildings in the future.
- Purchase/lease buildings that are built for the local environmental conditions and have a small environmental footprint.
- Adapt and re-use materials and buildings as a sustainable practice.
- Purchase new properties after due consideration to the environmental costs of the property, its ability to be used in a sustainable way and with the aim of being a best practice model for other communities.

4 Procedure

The Synod will record and measure the environmental impact of its new buildings by:

- Commissioning builders and architects to use best practice environmentally friendly materials, methods and designs.
- The Synod will work to reduce the impact of its existing buildings by
 - Monitoring water and energy use

- Engaging with the users of the buildings to modify the use of water and energy to minimise their use
 - Replacing fittings and fixtures and appliances where maintenance demands, with more energy and water efficient ones.
 - Where the Synod cannot avoid carbon emissions we will offset them by practices designed to mitigate carbon emissions by investing in tree planting which will absorb carbon emissions and improve native habitats OR investing in the Synod's own Offset Sustainability fund (name here) .
- The General Secretary will report on its application of this policy to Synod in session and will chart the reductions in carbon footprint over time.

5 Related Policies and Procedures

- Motor Vehicle Fleet Management Policy
- Air Travel Policy
- Congregation Sustainable Practice Policy
- Landscaping Policy