



Climate Change Policy

DOCUMENT NUMBER	CC001
TYPE	Policy
SUBJECT	Climate Change
AUTHORISED BY	Diocesan Council
DATE AUTHORISED	Nov 2019

SCOPE

The Climate Change Policy applies to all Parishes, Ministry Units and all church workers whose ministry is associated with the ministry of the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Northern Territory.

This policy covers decision-making processes and actions that bear on environmental impact. It undergirds eight actions for the diocese and parishes to take with regard to seeking to reduce the human contribution to climate change.

POLICY REGARDING ACTION AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

The diocese will act in ways that seek to reduce global warming and to limit negative environmental impact. Diocesan decision-making processes will consider any environmental impact before being finalised. The implementation of this policy will include:

1. **Climate change abatement projects.** The Diocese, its parishes and agencies will consider the feasibility of commencing projects designed to modify their properties and practices to assist in reduction or abatement of factors contributing to climate change.
2. **Environmental audits.** The Diocese, its parishes and agencies will conduct an environmental audit of their properties and practices once every five years.
3. **Divestment.** The Diocese, its parishes and agencies will consider divesting themselves of stock holdings or other investments in corporations or projects which significantly harm the environment or contribute to climate change.
4. **Prayer.** Parishes are to pray regularly for those who are adversely affected by climate change; pray for those who are acting to protect God's creation; and pray for those who are causing the problem that they might repent and act to change their damaging behaviour.
5. **Teaching.** Rectors are to arrange to provide sound biblical teaching about the need for humans as the stewards of God's creation to protect the environment; and to promote justice for those adversely affected by climate change.
6. **Prophecy.** The Diocese encourages Christians to act prophetically by warning others of the dangers of climate change and will encourage those who are acting and advocating to protect the environment and providing justice for those adversely affected. People seeking to make a media statement must follow the Diocese's media policy.
7. **Distribution of information.** The Diocese and parishes will distribute information on all of these activities to encourage Anglicans and other Christians, and those in the broader community, in their fight against climate change.
8. **Transparency.** The Diocese will meet its requirement to report to ordinary session of General Synod on its progress to reduce the negative environmental impact of its activities including global warming

BACKGROUND

The diocesan synod in 2015 passed a motion that recognised "the danger posed by climate change caused by human contributions that damage our environment, and so:

- "Commits itself to minimising this contribution; such action could include non-partisan participation in public debates and policy formation; teaching about the biblical and theological principles of stewardship for God's creation; investment where possible in environmentally ethical shares and

funds; and, where practicable, the redesign of our buildings and design of new buildings in accord with best environmental practice, and

- “Requests Diocesan Council to review current policies with this aim and present a report at the next synod.”

Diocesan synod in 2017 received that report and adopted its recommendations as policy. The report noted that not only is climate change a major threat to our environment, but is also a major injustice to the people of the poorer nations of the world who have not caused climate change but must bear its costs.

Further, the General Synod Protection of the Environment Canon (PEC) 2007 was adopted by the Northern Territory synod in 2008. This commits the diocese to reporting at each ordinary session of General Synod its progress in reducing our environmental footprint. A resolution of the 2017 General Synod emphasised energy efficiency (seeking to minimise global warming) as a reportable dimension under the PEC as well as encouraging divestment from ecologically damaging investment portfolios, consideration of the work of the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) and use of the Parish Quick Carbon Self-Report.

CHANGES TO THIS POLICY

From time to time it may be necessary to make changes to this policy. The body that is responsible for making changes is the Diocesan Council of the Synod of the Diocese of the Northern Territory. Further, the Synod of the Diocese supersedes the Diocesan Council in so far as resolutions of the synod concerning actions to mitigate climate change are passed.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any further questions about this policy, please contact the diocesan Registrar.
registrar@ntanglican.org.au

For completion when document supersedes an existing policy, procedure or protocol.

VERSION NUMBER OF THIS DOCUMENT	DATE OF PREVIOUS DOCUMENT	SUMMARY OF CHANGE	REASON FOR CHANGE