**ENVIRONMENT POLICY for Ascension Church, Hulme**

**Our Aim**

As a local church and as individual Christians we aim to take all practical steps necessary in order to safeguard and to sustain the life of the earth.

**Objectives**

As called upon by the Church of England General Synod, we will strive to work to achieve year-on-year reductions in emissions and urgently examine what would be required to reach net zero emissions by 2030 in order that a plan of action can be drawn up to achieve that target.

**As a church community we affirm our intentions as follows.**

* We will continually review these aims and objectives through regular meetings of the P.C.C.
* We will take environmental concerns into account in our mission, worship, pastoral, administrative and other programmes and projects.
* We will identify environmental issues in our local area and seek to devise appropriate action to address them.
* We will seek appropriate information from a Christian environmental group (eg. A Rocha, Christian Climate Action and Tearfund) and keep abreast of current thinking.
* We will undertake an ‘environmental audit’ of our premises and property and devise appropriate plans to care for them.
* We will support the work of local and national environmental organisations, as appropriate.
* We will encourage environmentally-friendly forms of transport, walking, cycling, using public transport, sharing cars, keeping journeys to meeting venues short wherever possible, and keeping fossil fuel emissions as low as we can.
* We will make an energy audit at least every three years.
* We will look for economies in heating by:
* keeping temperatures down
* fitting low-energy light bulbs
* switching to ‘green’ energy suppliers
* turning off computers and electrical appliances when not in use
* We will seek ways to reduce consumption and the impact of our activities on the environment by, wherever possible:
  + - using email where possible
    - using recycled paper
    - recycling waste and if necessary take it to collection points
    - using low-environmental impact cleaning materials
    - not using disposable and plastic items
    - re-using and repairing wood and other items
    - ensuring any new equipment is from a sustainable source
* We will seek to purchase food and drink that meets the LOAF principles (Locally sourced, Organically-grown, Animal-friendly, Fairly-traded), avoid over- catering, and use seasonal foods.
* We will continue to be part of the Diocese of Manchester eco-diocese campaign.

**We will continue to encourage our church members to:**

* Reduce, reuse, recycle whenever practical
* Share car journeys, use public transport, walk or cycle whenever practical
* Use Fair Trade and locally sourced goods and consider the “Food miles” in purchases
* Reduce energy consumption at home
* Switch to green energy suppliers
* Use environmentally friendly cleaning and washing products in home and avoid destructive chemicals
* Conserve water: collect rainwater, attend to leaks, avoid running taps
* Compost household waste and green waste
* Take litter home and recycle where possible
* Discourage the use of excessive packaging and junk mail
* Support local shops and charity shops
* Consider borrowing or swapping before purchasing new

(adapted, with thanks, from the policy of St John’s Church, Hillingdon)