

Lincolnshire Methodist District

Environmental Policy



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Theological Statement

“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.” [Genesis 1 v 31.NIV] The beautiful world that God has made is wonderfully linked together: sky, sea and soil are in divine harmony. God asked humans to care for creation [Gen 1:28-30] However, as a result of human activities, poisonous gases pollute the air, rubbish and chemicals pollute the land and sea. Climate change is causing extreme weather events. The people in the poorest countries are being hit hardest but they did the least to cause it. We need to humbly repent and to act together to improve our environment.

Commitment

The Methodist Conference has committed to a goal of net zero by 2030, and the Lincolnshire District aspires to this commitment.

Eco-contacts

The nominated Eco Contact for Lincolnshire Methodist District is Alison Godfrey.

Richard Britton-Voss and John Boardman are District Eco-Champions.

An environmental action plan detailing goals and timescales will accompany this policy.

Context

This policy recognises that Lincolnshire Methodist District, whilst being a registered charity in its own right, is made up of the circuits, churches and individuals to which it relates. We therefore seek to enable action as a whole District supporting that which reverses the effects of our environmental destruction and encourages life.

A survey amongst circuit superintendents in March 2024 revealed that there is much to do to encourage, support and resource environmental stewardship. The District recognises the challenges but believes that this should be complementary to all our concerns rather than simply being one of several competing priorities.

Lincolnshire Methodist District therefore seeks to reach net-zero in its own administrative functions whilst also seeking to support, encourage and resource circuits, churches and individuals in the wider Methodist District.

Actions

In particular the District will:

- register as an Eco-District
- measure carbon emissions, in particular from travel, using an appropriate measurement tool
- enable all churches to register with Eco-Church
- incorporate environmental sustainability into mission planning
- provide access to grant funding
- encourage each Circuit to identify an “Eco-champion”
- establish conventions around travel for meetings, eg if less than 5 people meet online, share transport etc.
- ensure that manses and other properties are environmentally audited and action taken where possible
- provide assistance to churches to undertake such environmental audits
- produce an annual review of progress towards net-zero to the representative Synod