

## **Hallam Diocese Environmental Policy. DRAFT**

*‘Christians, in particular, realise that their responsibility within creation and their duty towards nature and the Creator are an essential part of their faith’.*

*Pope John Paul II. 1990 World Day of Peace message.*

*‘Environmental pollution is making particularly unsustainable the lives of the poor of the world. In dialogue with Christians of various confessions, we must pledge ourselves to take care of creation and to share its resources in solidarity.’*

*Pope Benedict XVI. Angelus address, August 2006.*

*Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience.*

*Pope Francis. Laudato Si #217 2015.*

The increasing effects of changing weather patterns are primarily being felt by the poor and vulnerable. Worsening damage will be suffered by the young and future generations. Pope Francis identifies care for the environment as a matter of intra- and intergenerational justice. Our goal must be ‘to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it’. #19.

In composing a policy for the diocese, we hope to provide guidance and support for each other as members of the Hallam Catholic community, to shoulder our moral responsibilities towards God’s gift of creation. There is spiritual and practical work to be done by us all.

**The Diocese** will endeavour

to encourage prayer and liturgies for Creation;

to encourage support for Cafod and Caritas campaigns to safeguard the environment and refugees;

to encourage the growth of ‘Live Simply’ parishes;

to maintain an ethical investment policy, and prayerful reflection regarding investment in fossil fuels;

to be a living wage employer;

to encourage good housekeeping across all Diocesan buildings: reuse, recycling and reduction of waste; the purchase of green energy; the purchase of fair-trade products; the use of environmentally friendly household products; maintaining grounds that encourage wildlife;

to encourage car sharing, the use of public transport, and reflection on the need for air travel;

to work with those sharing similar concerns.

**Parishes** can endeavour

to support and encourage prayer and care for creation;

to collaborate with the diocese in good housekeeping (see above);

review Cafod's Live Simply guidance; seek individual parishioners willing to help in the effort to Live Simply as a parish, with care for creation and the earth's vulnerable in mind;  
to liaise with Catholic schools and youth, who are often already sensitive and committed to care for creation;  
to work with local initiatives sharing similar concerns.

**Individuals** can

encourage and participate in diocesan and parish initiatives;  
endeavour to follow diocesan guidance (see above) for good housekeeping in our lives;  
consider our transport use and air travel;  
eat less meat; consider 'food miles';  
pray for support to make changes in our lives which may feel awkward and difficult;  
pray for help to live simply;  
recognise each action for creation care as a prayer in itself;  
look for and enjoy the smallest daily manifestations of earthly beauty given to us by God..

*When I see the heavens, the work of your hands,  
the moon and the stars which you arranged,  
what are we that you should keep us in mind,  
Men and women that you care for them?  
Yet you have made us little less than gods;  
and crowned us with glory and honour,  
gave us power over the work of your hand,  
put all things under our feet.*

*How great is your name, O Lord our God,  
through all the earth!*

*Psalm 8.*