

Selkirk & Ashkirk Parish Church

Charity No SC014883



Eco-Congregation Scotland's Values, Vision and Mission Statement

adopted by the board of Eco-Congregation Scotland on 13th February 2014

Our Vision

- A Scotland that cares for God's creation, now and forever.

Our Values

- We care passionately for God's creation.
- We are a faith based movement.
- We are rooted in local groups of Christians.
- We work co-operatively with each other and with others who care about the environment.
- We encourage transformational change at individual, community and national levels.

Our Mission

- In prayer, worship and conversation we discover what it means to care for God's creation.
- We put that care into action individually, locally, nationally and globally, desiring to live justly in a transformed world.
- We commit ourselves to campaigning on urgent threats to the web of life in our vulnerable world.

Selkirk & Ashkirk Parish Church Eco-Congregation Policy

We, the congregation of Selkirk & Ashkirk Parish Church, embrace *Eco-Congregation Scotland's* Vision, Values and Mission statement. We believe that it is our individual and collective responsibility to be stewards of the whole of God's Earth.

Objectives

We shall :

- form an *Eco Congregation* group comprising at least one elder.
- promote awareness, within the church, of *Eco Congregation Scotland's* principles and objectives and of the values underlying them.
- maintain our Fair Trade status.
- encourage creativity, enthusiasm and skills within our own congregation in finding ways to reduce our impact on the environment.
- ensure that our employees and office holders implement this environmental commitment through their practice.
- ensure that all our church activities comply with our agreed Eco Policy and Practice requirements.
- review the environmental impact of any financial investments.
- encourage other hall users to adopt our Eco practice as found in the Hall User Guide.
- encourage other churches in joint initiatives.
- support local, national and international campaigns and organisations that reflect our environmental concerns.

Practical Application

Worship

We shall ensure that *Care for Creation* is part of church worship and teaching by:

- regularly including environmental concerns in prayers, worship and teaching for all ages.
- providing opportunities for members to learn about and discuss environmental issues.

Energy

We shall minimise our dependence on fossil fuels by:

- being vigilant in the use of light, heating and electrical appliances.
- considering the use of a Green Energy Supplier.

Natural Environment

We shall respect the natural environment by:

- maintaining plants and trees within the church grounds to help conserve biodiversity.
- collecting rainwater wherever possible and avoiding waste.
- using low environmental impact cleaning materials.

Materials and Resources

We shall reduce consumption and the impact of our activities on the environment by:

- reviewing our banking and investments.
- using electronic communication wherever possible.
- putting all recyclables in the SBC Recycling bins.
- supporting *Zero Waste Scotland* through providing a recycling point on the premises for other specific items.
- growing vegetables in the church garden for local use.
- putting all compostables in the church composter.
- putting all other food waste in SBC Food Waste Bin.

Our Eco-Congregation Pledge:

As Christians, individually and collectively, we commit ourselves to making informed choices about our lifestyle and its impact on the environment.

Our Eco-Congregation Policy will be reviewed every 3 years to ensure that we are adhering to our commitments.

Selkirk & Ashkirk Parish Church Eco-Congregation Policy, adopted by Kirk Session August 2017, reviewed February 2024.