Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church
Environmental Policy and Procedures

Our Vision

As with all Christians, members of the congregation of Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church are charged with stewardship of God's creation, locally, nationally and internationally. All members of the Church, as individuals and as part of the worshipping community, are called to that duty of environmental stewardship.

Our Intention

To ensure all activities undertaken on Church premises, or on behalf of the congregation, are in keeping with our environmental policy.

This document lays out our understanding of the need for environmental stewardship, and the principles behind our actions. This is followed by specific details of Procedures in these areas:

- Recycling and food waste
- Energy use
- Use of church grounds and allotments

Our Understanding

- God is Creator of the whole Universe, and human beings are part of that Creation.
- Humans are given a special role in the natural world, with power over the Earth and responsibility to care for it.
- We choose to abuse that power by exploiting the Earth's resources for selfish ends.
- We will only be at one with God and at peace when we have accepted our role as stewards of nature. Therefore we need to seek forgiveness for our environmental carelessness, and heal our fractured relations with the natural world. We recognise the limitations of our knowledge, but also that it is essential for us to act.
- By caring for the environment, we honour God and give witness to the world.

Our Practice

- Include environmental considerations in relevant decisions of Kirk Session and Committee.
- Monitor energy use and aim to improve efficiency, and reduce our carbon footprint.
- Promote recycling, use of Fairtrade products and reduction of waste within the congregation.
- Include Creation Care themes in worship on a regular basis.
- Increase awareness of members of environmental issues.
- Identify spiritually and practically with the developing world; climate justice requires us to acknowledge that it is the poor who will feel the greatest impact of climate change.
- Inform members of the congregation, staff, contractors, and outside agencies of our policy.

Environmental Policy and Procedures

Recycling and waste disposal and Fair Trade guidelines.

These are for the attention of all organisations and users of the premises.

Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church

Please play your part and help to

- promote recycling
- reduce amount of material being sent to landfill by sorting your waste and placing it in the correct bin
- think about how you could reduce the volume of waste you generate
- use eco friendly cleaning products where possible
- encourage the use of Fair trade products



Dry mixed recyclables
There are bins for these in

- kitchen
- servery in the foyer
- St John's Hall
- Rosetta Hall

<u>All items being placed in these bins must be clean and empty</u>.

The following materials can be placed in Dry Mixed recyclables:

- Dry paper and cardboard
- Plastic bottles with lids in place
- Cartons and Tetra packs
- Food and Drink cans
- Aluminium foil
- Toilet roll tubes
- Aerosol cans
- Envelopes – remove the transparent window
- Newspapers
- Plastic trays and tubs (check for recyclable status.

There is a bin for dry clean paper in the Office.

Soft plastics.

A bin for soft plastics is in the servery in the foyer. All items being placed here must be clean and dry. Materials which can be accepted are:

plastic bags, bread bags, crisp packets, biscuit wrappers,
cling film, cheese wrappers, plastic film.

Food Waste

All food waste must be placed in a green food caddy (lined with a compostable bag). DO NOT put any liquid or packaging in this bin.

There are food caddies in

- the kitchen
- servery in the foyer
- servery in Rosetta Hall.

Disposal of Fat and Oil generated from cooking
Fat must not be put in liquid form into the food caddy.
Allow it to harden. When solid it can then be put into the food caddy.

Cooking Oil
When cold, pour it into a bottle for disposal and take it to your local recycling centre.
If a cooking tray is greasy, use paper roll (Blue roll) to mop up the excess before washing the tray. Blue roll should always be placed in the General Waste as it is not recyclable or compostable.

Non-recyclable items

Black bins are located in

- Kitchen
- Megaw Room
- Servery in the foyer
- Foyer
- St.John's Hall
- Cairns Room

Hazardous materials e.g. broken glass must be securely wrapped in newspaper etc before disposal directly in one of the skips outside the St.John's Hall.

Fair Trade

Newtownbreda Presbyterian is a Fair Trade registered church. This means that we are committed to using only Fair Trade products whenever possible.

Coffee, tea and sugar should always be Fair Trade certified.

All external organisations using the Halls are requested to follow this policy.

Environmental Policy and Procedures

Energy Use (heat and light) guidelines.

These are for the attention of all organisations and users of the premises.

Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church

- Heating in the halls is set in advance by the Property Committee. Please help by keeping doors closed, especially the Foyer doors to the outside
- Please make sure all lights are switched off when not needed, and particularly when you are leaving

Heating

There is **under-floor heating** in the foyer and Rosetta Hall. This is on continuously through the winter and is not adjustable.

- Heating in other rooms is controlled remotely – heating is scheduled to come on only when rooms are booked.
- Heating will be switched on to ensure the room has warmed up by the time you are scheduled to arrive.
- Please ensure that your room booking covers all the time you need.

Lighting

Lights come on and off automatically (controlled by movement sensors) in the toilets, kitchen, and the corridor towards the kitchen, and external lights outside foyer.

All other lights are controlled by switches.

In the Foyer area there are 5 switches on the pillar opposite the main noticeboard. All of these should be switched off if you are the last to leave.

In Rosetta Hall there are Pendant lights and Spotlights. Please consider carefully if you need them all on at once.

The switches in St. John's Hall and Megaw Room incorporate dimmer switches. In St John's Hall there are instructions beside the light switch. Please ensure that the lights in both rooms are off when you leave.

Environmental Policy and Procedures

Guidelines for the use of church grounds.

These are for the attention of all organisations and users of the premises.

Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church

We are fortunate to have a wide range of buildings, ornamental gardens, allotments, recreational areas and car parks within our church boundaries. The way we care for and manage these grounds should reflect our openness to our local community and our care for God's creation.

All who attend, visit or pass through are asked to observe the following guidance.

- Maintain a safe and clean environment by never discarding litter within any part of the grounds
- We welcome the wider community who regularly pass through our grounds and encourage the exchange of friendly greetings and conversation
- We are conscious of the built-up nature of the surrounding area and seek to foster good neighbourliness through our care and maintenance of the church grounds and property
- Our car parking areas are often busy with people attending multiple events resulting in constant movement of vehicles, so drivers must be safety conscious at all times and show respect for others
- In particular, drivers should be alert to the presence of children and the elderly and take special care when manoeuvring close to buildings or other cars
- When parking, drivers should leave spaces marked for disabled use for those who need them
- Dog walkers must always clean up after their dogs as children often play on the grass and throughout the church grounds
- Respect, appreciate and understand the value of diversity in the manner of planting and maintenance of the flower beds and grassed areas. Unmown areas may look less attractive to you but wildlife and pollinating insects in particular will benefit.

Environmental Policy and Procedures

Guidelines for the use of church allotments.

Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church

These are for the attention of all organisations and users of the premises.

The church allotments have traditionally provided opportunities for fellowship and environmental stewardship for keen gardeners in the congregation. After the church added a polytunnel to the allotment area, the church's youth organisations, which are open to and representative of the wider local community, have been encouraged to recognise the value of this rich resource. In response they have developed activities to promote awareness and appreciation of sustainable vegetable gardening, nature, biodiversity and God's creation.

With this growing range and number of allotment users, all who use or visit should observe the following guidance so that all can enjoy participating safely and in ways that respect other users and our church's commitment to creation care.

- Allotments are unfamiliar environments for the very young and so can give rise to accidents. **Children on the site** must therefore be under the direct supervision of an adult at all times
- Special care must be exercised by all in the vicinity of the polytunnel which is particularly vulnerable to damage by sharp objects
- Access gates to the area of the Scout Hall and allotments must be closed and locked on leaving
- Allotment users should
  - strive to maximise the re-use, recycling and composting of all materials arising in the allotments and church grounds
  - use water sparingly and collect and use rainwater where possible
  - avoid the use of herbicides and pesticides that are not approved for use in organic gardening
  - seek to promote biodiversity and help pollinators when making crop and plant choices
  - consider how to use uncultivated areas to provide cover, food and places to live for birds, mammals and insects