

14. IMPLEMENTATION, COSTS AND SAVINGS

Work to be Done

To carry out the working party's recommendations the following work needs to be done:

1. facilitating a continuing discussion and exploration of the issues in PCCs, LMGs, Deanery Chapters, Deanery Synods, and community meetings
2. providing PCCs and diocesan bodies with information on the international impact of climate change, matters of trade justice, development and environmental pollution
3. providing PCCs and diocesan bodies with information on food production and trade
4. advising PCCs on local environmental matters
5. continuing research into the issues
6. writing on the issues in Grapevine and other publications
7. setting up relevant pages and links on the diocesan website and keeping them up to date
8. networking across the diocese to help PCCs help each other in generating and assessing ideas,
9. working with diocesan advisers in areas such as spirituality, healing and liturgy to develop courses and resources for parishes, LMGs and individuals.
10. on behalf of the diocese contributing to local debates on such matters as Bristol Airport Expansion, nuclear power, the Severn Barrier project, etc.
11. providing information on environmental programmes such as Eco-Congregation and A Rocha to PCCs
12. providing a link for the diocese on environmental matters with the national and international church and other bodies
13. representing the diocese to local environmental bodies such as Somerset Wildlife Trust, Somerset Trust for Sustainable Development, Carymoor Centre, etc.
14. advising clergy and other worship leaders in developing liturgies reflecting the themes of creation, responsibility and hope
15. helping PCCs and the Diocesan Board of Finance obtain grant aid for their own environmental projects, with information and assistance in making applications
16. advising the DAC on environmental matters
17. advising the Houses and Glebe Committee on environmental matters
18. providing information on Eco-Schools to Church schools
19. working with the School of Formation on the development of programmes to help individuals and churches develop a more environmentally friendly life
20. working with the Department for Ministry Development in providing training for clergy and Readers on environmental matters.

Possible Ways Forward

In order to do this the diocese could:

- A** appoint a full time Environment Officer for whom this is their job description but with a further brief to recruit volunteers to assist in the work.
- B** share out some of this work (items 13 to 20) among the established diocesan departments, committees and advisers, and appoint a half time Environment Officer to (a) carry out the work that cannot be done by existing diocesan departments (items 1 to 12) and (b) work with the Principal Officers to co-ordinate the implementation of the recommendations.
- C** find some other way of ensuring this work is done.
- D** hope that these things just happen.

Implications

If option A is adopted the person appointed would need to be multi-skilled, have a clear commitment to working collaboratively with volunteers from across the diocese, and would need a budget to fund the work. This could be a lay or clergy appointment.

If option B is adopted the group would need a chair who has time available to co-ordinate the work.

Departments and officers who take on this additional work would need to be able to give up some of what they are doing already.

The Environment Officer would need to be able to work as a diocesan adviser, network with volunteers, keep up to date with developments, represent the diocese to other bodies, facilitate groups exploring environmental matters and make presentations in meetings and services.

The officer would need a budget to fund the work. This also could be a lay or clergy appointment.

If option C is adopted creative thinking on structures will be needed to work out how this work can be done.

Without a clear commitment to implementing another way of doing things this is, in effect, option D.

If option D is adopted many of these things will not happen because there will be no person or group that can be identified by PCCs, the diocese, the national church or the public as dealing with environmental matters on behalf of the diocese.

It is doubtful if the diocese could be said to have adopted an environment policy in any meaningful sense.

Costs and Savings

Many of the recommendations made here would cost little or nothing to implement.

Some, such as the recommendations concerning transport and the use of materials, would save the diocese and parishes money.

Some recommendations, such as installing PV cells on churches, would initially cost PCCs a substantial sum.

However, with good information and support PCCs who are undertaking such work could have access to grant aid for such projects.

A diocesan officer with the time and resources to stay informed about possible sources of funding for environmental work could provide this information.

Whilst employing a diocesan officer with this responsibility would initially cost the diocese money, there would be a financial return for the diocese and individual parishes.

Grant aid for environmental work is likely to increase in the next few years as the Government works to reach its carbon dioxide emission targets.

Money is also sometimes available to churches from landfill tax and other sources.

The outlay for a full time Environment Officer would be about £41,750 or for a part time officer about £19,850, if they are paid the diocesan stipend. The cost of a full time officer represents about £200 on a parish share of £40,000. A lay appointment would probably be more expensive.



Steady Improvement

The Housing and Glebe committee would need to budget for continual further improvements to vicarages on environmental grounds. This might need additional money, beyond the present maintenance budget. The Diocesan Surveyor and the Environment Working Party consider that it is better to steadily improve all vicarages than to spend money building one or two 'green vicarages'.

A system could be put in place to encourage clergy to invest in energy generation devices in vicarages, e.g. by partial reimbursement of costs when they move or with loans repayable from their financial savings. Such a scheme would involve an initial capital outlay which would be recouped by the diocese in repayments or in increased property values.

Loans or charitable grants might be made available to help clergy equip themselves with electrically assisted bicycles.

Money and Mission

Many of the things we do as churches we do, not because they will make or save us money but because they are worth doing.

Striving to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain and renew the life of the earth is the fifth mark of mission. It is central to our task as a church.

Reducing the environmental impact of our activities and buildings is an aspect of our mission and should be considered as such by the Board of Finance, the Joint Budget Committee and the Parish Development Fund.

An Example of Costs: St James's Piccadilly, London.

In 2005, with a faculty, the PCC of St James's installed photo-voltaic cells on the roof of this grade I listed church building. The system cost thirty six thousand pounds (£36K). They obtained two grants, £16.5K from the EDF Energy Green Energy Fund, and £12.5K from the DTI's Energy Saving Trust. The balance paid from church funds was £7K. At current energy prices the system reduces their electricity bills by about £340 pounds per year. It is likely that electricity prices will increase year on year so the savings will increase.

Installing this system has meant that St James's is effectively emitting 1.8 tons less carbon dioxide to the atmosphere each year. The installation can also be used for educational purposes, it demonstrates the church's serious commitment to care for the environment and encourages others to do the same.

St James's is a busy city centre church. A village church would be a net generator of electricity and would be paid by the electricity company for any electricity it supplied to the grid. The effective carbon dioxide saving would be the same as every unit of electricity generated from renewable sources does not need to be generated from fossil fuels. However many of our churches would need not only the inspiration of this example but practical help and advice in obtaining grants.