



THINK GREEN



Look at your shopping trolley ... how many products are LOAF: Local, Organic, Animal-friendly or Fairtrade?
Work out the shortest distance you travel by car .. could you walk or cycle it?
Check your thermostat – where is heat lost through poor insulation?
See where your water goes – how often is the tap running? Do you use as much rainwater as you could?
Look into your wheelie bin – what makes up most of your waste?
Hold your money to account – does your bank have the same values as you ?
Healthy eating ... why not grow your own pesticide and herbicide free vegetables to reduce food miles and carbon emissions. Plus, a compost heap becomes your own fascinating nature reserve to introduce children to the natural world.

Don't know where to start? Contact us for advice or use an online carbon calculator like www.carboncalculator.direct.gov.uk or www.resurgence.org/education/quickcalc.html to get an idea of your main environmental impacts.

Tom Veitch, John Beardmore and John Millar

The environment and human development

The inclusion of environmental sustainability among the United Nation's *Millennium Development Goals* for the eradication of poverty, injustice and preventable disease challenges unsustainable consumption and production processes. For the 2.6 billion people in today's world lacking basic sanitation, 900 million without access to safe drinking water and 800 million who live in slums, efforts to combat threats to biodiversity from species loss, soil erosion and climate change which affect our shared planet's health must run alongside disease prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. With this inclusive approach unjust structures can be transformed and human needs met.

Richard Henderson Smith



This leaflet has been produced by the Derby Diocesan Environmental Group which is an ecumenical group seeking to encourage churches and congregations to continue acting on climate and justice issues. Further details can be found at <http://www.faithinderbyshire.org/environment>. If you would like any more information please email the chair, the Revd Terry Thake at terry.thake@btinternet.com, or the secretary, Mrs Rita Brierley, Rita.Brierley@derby.anglican.org.

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The Fifth Mark of Mission

**To strive to safeguard the integrity
of creation and sustain and renew
the life of the earth**

Humans, made in God's image have a unique responsibility for the well-being of creation in all its variety (Genesis 1:26, 2:15). We are called to care for the earth because it is a gift, the product of God's love. However in recent years human activity has done great harm in many different ways and our fragile earth is very vulnerable. Some of the many aspects of this are touched on in this leaflet.

One obvious example is Climate Change which most scientists say that it is now starting to accelerate more quickly and more dramatically than in previous decades. Many agree that the most likely reason for this acceleration is a build-up of Carbon Dioxide in the earth's atmosphere, due to human being's excessive burning of fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal. The effects are being seen in every part of our world. The challenge is to find and support policies that will move us away from our reliance on fossil fuels.

The Revd Terry Thake





Our environmental/ecological footprint (EF for short), is the amount of land area required to deliver the resources we consume such that there is no use of non-renewable resources. It has risen over the last three decades at about one and a half percent per year, and this is continuing.

Humanity passed the point where it could live on the Earth without the consumption of finite resources in the 1970s. By 1996 this had reached about 130% of the Earth's 'carrying capacity'. Some estimates suggest our EF has more than doubled since 1970.

As there is insufficient ecologically productive land available, much environmental improvement is about 'doing more with less' in a sustainable way, as well as reducing our consumption of finite resources. It is important to act as individuals as well as communities and states. Other people can do this with us, but not for us.

John Beardmore



St Francis RC Church in Long Eaton is setting out to be a 'Live Simply' Parish. They acquired an allotment and are now digging and planting. Salad crops are up as well as peas, beans and potatoes. Elaine says "Each visit means we grow taller from the soil that sticks to our wellies!" Supplies of sheds, bricks and slabs for paths have come from 'freecycle'. There's somewhere to sit down, relax and have a cup of tea near fruit bushes and trees. Staff from the primary school are involved too. People who do not want to dig for glory help by raising seedlings. As the seasons progress, the intention is that some of the produce will go to the local Food Bank. It is an exciting start.

Rosy Townsend

Despite bad news concerning wildlife, for example 72% of UK's butterfly species are in decline (www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-16054895), and evidence of a mass extinction of species (www.learner.org/courses/envsci/unit/text.php?unit=9&secNum=6), there is good news. People are becoming increasingly proactive to conserve wildlife and habitats. Moors for the Future (www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/) based in Derbyshire are active in restoring habitats of European significance on both sides of the Pennines. Closer at home there are positive steps that can be taken by groups and individuals to help wildlife. Look at Hedgehog Street for how to help one much loved declining animal (www.hedgehogstreet.org/).

John Millar



For the Church of the 21st century, good ecology is not an optional extra but a matter of justice. It is therefore central to what it means to be a Christian".

Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury



Though not faith based, the Transition Towns movement has a high proportion of people who publicly acknowledge their faith. People of faith (of all kinds) tend to recognise that the universe does not revolve around their (ultimately unsustainable) material wants and Transition resonates strongly with Christian principles. Transition acknowledges that we live beyond our means and must re-tune to a different beat (before lack of resources forces us to), but it does so in creativity and optimism with hope for a better future. Christ's direct teachings and actions are a guide to making a transition to better, happier, lives in harmony with God's creation. We could do a lot worse than follow...

Graham Truscott



Many ideas of 'transition' and 'sustainable' towns are relevant to churches: reducing energy consumption, planting fruit trees in the church-yard, harvesting rainwater, cycling to meetings.

Eco-congregations will be tackling many such issues already. This is commendable but only a start. We have a heaven-sent opportunity to engage with concerned people in the wider community. Providing church rooms for 'action group' meetings or throwing our weight behind transition projects are steps on the road to a sustainable life-style for the whole of the communities we serve. That journey will demand all our spiritual resources but it is the Gospel in action.

Charles Jolly

Churches Together in Wirksworth and District have an active link with the Diocese of Durgapur, part of the Church in North India. Through exchange visits and fundraising the Churches in Wirksworth have shared both the challenges in Durgapur (including devastation caused by flooding) and successes, including installing solar electricity panels on a hostel for local children and improved drinking water supplies. The Church in North India is active on climate issues, being involved in a climate justice campaign and hosting a youth climate conference. Having such a link brings home the fact that many countries are already feeling significant impacts of climate change, and it is often the poorest communities who suffer most.

Tom Veitch

