

QUEEN'S CROSS CHURCH, ABERDEEN



Purchasing Policy

Members of Queen's Cross love and care for the Earth and all living things. We see it as our duty to manage and protect it for future generations.

We recognise that consumption of any item no matter how small adds to the destruction of our natural environment by creating carbon emissions as a by-product during production, transportation and disposal.

Consequently we accept it is the responsibility of all of us to consider our environment when making a purchase.

- Firstly, do we need the item at all?
- If the answer is yes, can we buy a version produced using sustainable resources?
- How should we dispose of it when we no longer need it: can it be recycled?

Aims and Objectives

HOSPITALITY

We provide crockery and cutlery for catering at Queen's Cross and attempt to encourage those using the facilities to avoid bringing in disposable items such as paper plates or cups.

All teas and coffees served on our premises are Fair Trade.

Cleaning products where effective and cloths should be of the Eco friendly variety so as to have minimum impact on the environment.

When replacing cookers, fridges or other white goods these will have a low energy and water consumption rating.

Disposal of waste items should be in keeping with environmental interests.

TRAVEL

Individuals on Church business are encouraged to walk, cycle, car share or use public transport whenever possible.

COMMUNICATION

Modern Technology offers us the opportunity to send written information without using paper. We should communicate as far as possible via e-mail.

Where necessity dictates the printing of hard copies, using recycled paper will be encouraged.

Paper, printing cartridges and toners will be recycled.

Computers should be switched off when not in use and/or fitted with a 'sleep' device. When replacement computers, printers etc are purchased the old ones will be sent for recycling.

ENERGY

LIGHTING - All areas in the building should be fitted with low energy light bulbs. Lights should be switched off when a room/area is not in use. Corridors are controlled using a PIR system whereby lights switch off automatically when the area is vacated. When work is carried out to upgrade the lighting system in other areas of the building a similar PIR system should be installed.

HEATING - While the difficulty of heating our premises to an acceptable level is acknowledged, thought is given to keeping the use of fuel for heating to an absolute minimum. At a future date if heating facilities need to be replaced, consideration should be given to installing a highly 'eco efficient' system.

The recent installation of a computerised zoning system that can be programmed to switch on and off heating in particular zones at specific times facilitates this.

PROVIDER - at periodic intervals we should review our choice of energy providers and consider a product that generates electricity from 100% sustainable sources and offsets carbon emissions from gas usage.

MAINTENANCE OF BUILDINGS

Where reasonably possible, materials purchased to undertake repairs to the fabric of buildings owned and run by Queen's Cross should be produced using sustainable resources. Recycled materials should be considered where possible.

Due consideration should be given to environmental impact whenever any major projects are undertaken.

INVESTMENTS

We should only invest in ethical organisations that have clear policies on sustainability such as the Church of Scotland Investment Trust.