

## Policy 4

### ENVIRONMENT

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#### Policy Purpose

To provide advice in relation to good environmental practices at the Blackwood Church of Christ for all those who use the facilities.

To minimise the use of the earth's resources, to reduce the production of waste and pollution into the environment.

To set a good example for others to undertake similar good practices in their homes and everyday lives.

#### Policy Statement

##### INTRODUCTION

We the Blackwood Church of Christ believe that we are called upon by God to the task of taking care of the earth, so that present and future generations may live on it and enjoy its fruits. We are committed to the prevention of pollution and minimising the impact of our actions on the environment. We recognise that in pursuing our activities, we have a responsibility and should take every opportunity to minimise our consumption, and to protect and nurture the natural environment. By exercising proper control over our activities we will promote the use of sustainable resources and discourage wasteful or damaging practices.

The following dot points provide practical guidance for all users of the Church facilities to minimise our use of resources, and to reduce the amount of rubbish that goes to waste.

##### ENERGY USE

Our aim is to minimise the energy consumed in our facilities.

##### Air conditioning

Running the air conditioners is the largest single contributor to energy use at the Church.

- Turn the air conditioning on only in the areas that are occupied and only when the temperature is too hot or cold for comfort for the particular activity.
- In hot weather set the thermostat to 26°C and in cold weather set it to 22°C. Every degree cooler or warmer you set it to, uses 10% more electricity. Note that setting the thermostat higher or

lower doesn't make the room reach the desired temperature any quicker, it just wastes energy and wears out the equipment faster.

- Turn the air conditioning off in the area occupied when not using the space or leaving the building. Note that the room will remain at the set temperature for some 15 minutes, so the air conditioner can be turned off before you leave.

### **Lights**

Our aim is to use the most energy efficient light fittings possible and to minimise the use of lights.

- Turn on lights only in areas being used and only to the extent necessary for the activities being undertaken. Note that many rooms have multiple banks of lights and switches and not all lights may need to be used in any space.
- Turn off lights when leaving an area, even when only for a relatively short time. Note that the energy used to start up a fluorescent lamp is equivalent to a few seconds running time so it is still best to turn them off when not needed, even for a few minutes.

### **WATER USE**

Our aim is to minimise the use of water in our facilities.

- Put plugs in sinks and basins when significant washing of items is required.
- Do not leave taps running when washing items.
- Run the kitchen dishwasher with full loads.
- Garden plants have been selected for their minimal water needs and are watered by a dripper irrigation system, which should be used carefully to ensure plants receive optimum watering.

### **CHEMICAL USE**

We recognise that many chemicals are harmful to the environment (and also damaging to human health).

- where practical use less toxic natural alternatives for cleaning, personal hygiene and other uses.

### **RECYCLING**

Our aim is to minimise the amount of rubbish that goes to landfill and maximise the amount of material that is recycled

Recycling bins are located in the northern passage outside the large hall and in the print room of the office area.

- Please note carefully on the signs adjacent the recycling bins a description of the materials that can and can't go in the recycle bin. If inappropriate material is placed in the recycling bin, it contaminates the whole bin and will cause serious problems at the recycling centre including sending loads of material to landfill instead of being recycled.
- Bottles and cans that have a 10 cent deposit are to be put in the appropriately marked bin in the kitchen.
- Recycled paper products should be used where practical.

## **WASTE DISPOSAL**

Our aim is to minimise the amount of material that is consumed and that ends up as rubbish.

### **Food scraps**

- Food scraps can be put in the white bench top food scraps bin in the kitchen. There is no need to wrap food scraps as they are then disposed of in the green waste bin.

### **Rubbish**

It is important to minimise rubbish that gets sent to landfill, so carefully consider the use of resources and where things go when they are no longer useful.

- Rubbish can be put in the small metal waste bins in various rooms or in the large plastic waste bin in the kitchen.
- Ensure that any food scraps and recyclable materials are put in the other appropriate bins.

## **Policy References**

Policy 10 – Hire of Premises

Policy 14 – Cafe Policy and Procedures

## **Review of Policy**

This policy shall be reviewed every two years, or as required.

## **Further Information**

If you require further information, contact the Church Office

**Authorised by:**

**(Chair of Elders)**

**Signature:** .....

**Date:**