



DIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN RESPECT OF BUILDINGS

The Trustees of the Diocese are the registered owners of all the property of the Diocese, including that used by parishes and other Diocesan organizations. The Trustees wish to ensure that all our properties and in particular the buildings on them are developed and managed in ways that are consistent with sound environmental practice.

This policy sets out a framework to guide parishes and other Diocesan organizations, and is supported by more detailed guidelines which are available on the Diocesan website or from the Diocesan office.

We should recognize that compliance with these principles is a reflection of our faith in our creator and the care and nurture of all living things and the environment on which they depend.

The development and management of our buildings should:

- **Comply with all applicable legislation**
- **In terms of design, meet the principles of economic, social, and ecological sustainability, ie “green design”**
- **Use eco-friendly materials as much and frequently as possible**
- **Reduce the use of non-renewable resources**
- **Minimise environmental impact during construction and thereafter**
- **Minimise waste and harmful and/or dangerous working practices**
- **In addition, we should develop an eco/enviro-sensitive awareness, culture and lifestyle in our parishes and organisations.**

It is recognised that existing buildings will often not comply with all these principles. Parishes and organizations are requested to review this situation regularly, at least every 3 years, and consider retrofitting changes to buildings to make them more eco-friendly and cost effective. Please plan to integrate these principles into all ongoing improvements and maintenance of existing buildings.

It is also recognized that application of the principles often has short term implications in terms of practicality, time and cost. However, the long term benefits, particularly in terms of energy savings, often justify higher up-front capital costs. Where costs are a problem please consult with the Diocesan office for advice and possible support.

Application of this policy is an important legacy for future generations.

December 2009