

Carbon Reduction

Basic Information

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Status of Paper	Final
Action Required	Decision
Draft Resolution	The Council adopts the recommendations in the report
Alternative Options to Consider, if Any	

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	A report to the February meeting of the Council (MC/10/28) provided an update on several of the aims of the Carbon Reduction Project. This report provides an update on the remaining aim of the project and provides recommendations for changes to policy and practice. It particularly addresses the following parts of Conference 2009 resolution 10/1: ii) assess Methodist Church travel and other policies iii) make recommendations in relation to energy audits of all manses and other church buildings
Main Points	A policy framework for carbon reduction is provided for implementation within the context of the Church's organisational structure and constitution. Implementation will continue to require the passion and determination locally in tackling climate change.
Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hope in God's Future - Christian Discipleship in the Context of Climate Change.</i> • MC/10/28 Carbon Reduction Project Report to February Council
Consultations	The project involved specialist consultation with the project management group, Ministers, Church Treasurers, Property Secretaries, Circuit Treasurers, Circuit Stewards and Coordinators of Eco Congregation churches.

Summary of Impact

Standing Orders	The full paper provides detailed explanation of changes to: S.O. 533 Manses S.O. 803 (4) Accommodation and Furnishing Section 1B 2 Charter for Incoming Ministers and Deacons Section 1C Guidelines on Provision of Adequate Accommodation for Manses
Faith and Order	None.
Financial	Positive impact with potential savings in the short and long term whilst reducing financial risk. Efficiency savings for church buildings and manses as well as for ministers and deacons. By looking at carbon management, churches may look at operating their church in a new way.
Personnel	None.
Legal	None.
Wider Connexional	There will be an opportunity for the wider Connexion to play its part in carbon reduction by taking up initiatives and resources promoted as part of the Connexional Team communications strategy.
External (e.g. ecumenical)	Sharing of resources via external 'creation challenge' website.
Risk	Risk of low response and take up by Connexion.

Carbon Reduction

1. Introduction

1.1. This report follows the February report to Council (MC/10/28) and concerns the outstanding project aim:

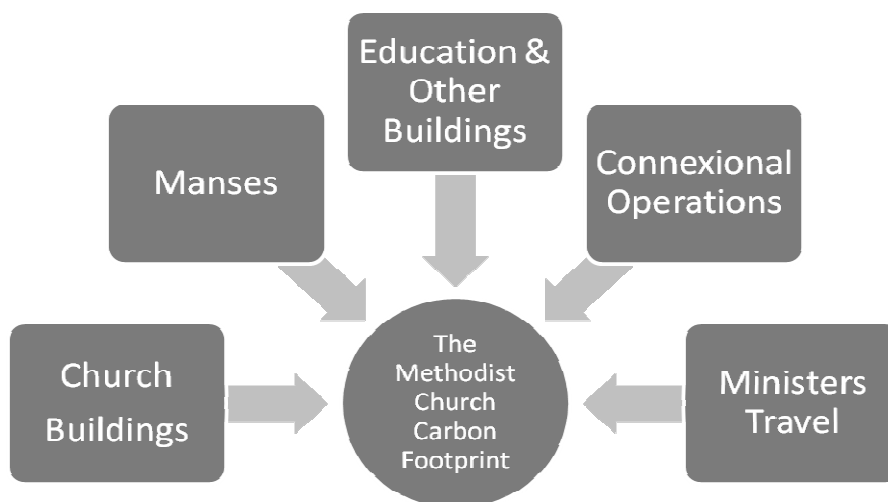
- Identify how established policy and practice impacts on the carbon footprint of the Methodist Church
- Coordinate the review of key policies in order to achieve significant reductions in the Church's carbon footprint in line with the Government's targets of 80% reduction by 2050 and appropriate interim targets.

1.2 The policy challenge for the Methodist Church is how it can rapidly respond in the most effective way to take advantage of the opportunities and tackle the threats of climate change. This report seeks to show how the existing policies and practice can integrate carbon reduction, to establish it as a core service and mission.

2. Background

2.1 The risks and impacts of climate change and the responses to tackle it are increasing. It presents the Methodist Church with both a theological and practical challenge. *Hope in God's Future* sets out the challenge within a largely theological context and what it means to be a disciple in the context of climate change.

2.2 The recommendations seek to encourage an enabling framework to make it easier to implement carbon reduction in the key areas that will maximise benefits whilst tackling significant impacts. At this stage with no measurement of direct and indirect emission data this makes for a difficult analysis. It is important to understand what constitutes the direct and indirect impacts resulting in the Methodist Church carbon footprint (see below).



2.3 The recommended approach taken at this time in attempting to be effective, honest and realistic is to encourage service and support with guidance. The challenge at all levels will involve making it easy to take simple steps towards a low carbon future, whilst acknowledging that leadership is required at all levels to make important decisions.

2.4 The recommendations have come about through strategic thinking and development throughout the project. A process (in line with the Connexional Team procedure on policy development) was undertaken to identify the problem, investigate the situation and potential impact. These have been scrutinised against the principles of *Hope in God's Future* and carbon management practice. Specialist

consultation has been undertaken following consultation at preliminary stages of the project. The policies and practices in this document now require approval and then implementation. It is then important for the ongoing tackling of the Church's carbon footprint that maintenance of initiatives occurs alongside measuring outcomes. Ongoing review and evaluation will also be required, so that new policy development can occur.

2.5 Regarding the auditing of church buildings, the Methodist Church in collaboration with the Carbon Trust has undertaken a joint funded Carbon Management Energy Efficiency Programme to determine the ways in which churches can save energy and money. The results will detail the carbon reduction measures that can be taken by a range of churches. This information will be communicated so that churches can be encouraged to implement measures for their own buildings.

2.6 A full list of additional policies and practices that do not require a decision from Council can be found in Appendix 1. They are work in progress, being implemented by the Connexional Team and will emerge.

3. Recommendations

The following policies and practices will have significant impact and resource Districts and Circuits to adequately respond to *Hope in God's Future*.

Meeting Methodist Church Commitments

3.1 **It is recommended** that the Connexional Team prepare an annual progress report for Council on the practical implications of *Hope in God's Future*.

Local Policy

3.2 It is important that Districts, Circuits and churches can feel connected to 'Hope in God's Future'. Mechanisms need to be in place to maintain a response to this immediate and ongoing challenge.

3.3 **It is recommended** that local churches are strongly encouraged to sign up to a 'Hope in God's Future' policy/pledge/covenant in shared responsibility. This will provide a continual awareness and commitment within the church. Furthermore, Districts, Circuits and churches should choose to appoint a person to ensure this area is represented.

Manses

3.4 A significant contribution to the Methodist Church carbon footprint is from its manses. Due to the nature of provision, manses are not subject to a number of legislative initiatives to improve the level of domestic properties such as the Decent Homes Standard and Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs).

3.5 An EPC is required when a domestic property changes occupier by purchase or rental. The certificate is produced by conducting an onsite standard domestic energy assessment using nationally recognized methodology and provides the current and potential energy efficiency rating. It also provides the estimated energy use, carbon dioxide emissions and fuel costs. It importantly provides recommended measures to improve the energy performance.

3.6 The changes to Standing Orders outlined below are intended to assist Circuits in meeting the immediate and future needs of Presbyters and deacons. The changes have been derived following results from a pilot for the Wirral Circuit and close discussions with the Circuit Steward and other key members of the Connexional Team. The pilot sought to identify the easiest way in which Circuits can make an assessment of their portfolio to enable the Circuit Steward to implement a programme of works to improve the performance of the manses.

3.7 The pilot intended to determine the type of guidance that is needed to provide Circuit Stewards with a tool to improve the energy efficiency performance of manses. The Wirral Circuit received an EPC

for each manse with copies for the occupier, a summary of findings, a financial summary and additional notes for each manse. The main failing of EPCs is that they will make generalised assumptions, but they are the best method of delivery within the marketplace at good value and for widespread implementation.

Implementation:

3.8 In meeting the recommendations set out below it would cost the Wirral Circuit an estimated £15,477 to improve the manses to reach their potential energy efficiency rating. This figure includes replacing boilers and does not include obtaining grants or discounts for measures such as insulation which may be available for the Circuit to access. For the Wirral manses savings of £3,661p.a. in the energy bill, are achievable across the manses for occupants. Going forward in meeting a minimum 'C' rating, some of the properties will require further measures at a greater cost for the Circuit. This may lead to greater consideration of the Circuit's portfolio.

3.9 The main benefit to Circuits is in providing improved accommodation for their current and potential Presbyters, an increase in value, improved maintenance of the building fabric and reduced decoration problems associated with cold homes e.g. damp/condensation. For Presbyters it would mean a reduction in energy bills and improved control and comfort of their place of work and living space.

3.10 As approved at February Council, Circuits should endeavour to use model trust money to put in place high standards of energy efficiency as per the guidelines of CPD. Thus, helping the Circuit, Presbyters and the Methodist Church save money and reduce its carbon footprint.

3.11 **It is recommended that the Council propose to Conference the following changes to Standing Orders:**

S.O. 533 The circuit stewards shall be responsible for the interior decoration ~~and~~ , furnishing **and energy efficiency** of the manses.

S.O. 803 (4) The Circuit or other such body shall, **having regard for energy efficiency**, provide all carpets, curtains and other floor covering, lamp shades and light fittings, fixed fires (where fitted), study furniture, cooker and kitchen cupboards, as specified in clauses (6) to (8) below.

Section 1B 2 [add bullet point at end]:
• **a current energy performance certificate.**

Section 1C 3 ~~Circuits should seek high standards of energy efficiency including e.g. roof and wall insulation...~~ **Using Energy Performance Certificates and advice, Circuits must undertake measures to meet the potential energy efficiency rating of their manses. Circuits should seek to provide manses to meet a minimum of a 'C' energy efficiency rating.**

Presbyters Travel

3.12 Transport is a challenging area and will require continual development to enable smarter choices to be implemented and costs to be reduced.

3.13 **It is recommended** that to reduce emissions and fuel costs from Presbyters and Preachers car travel, Circuits are encouraged to fund government sponsored smart driver training. This will encourage low carbon driving behaviour and future car purchases. (Current prices for training are £25 per person)

Carbon reduction champions

3.14 To further implement carbon reduction measures, churches may require additional technical assistance with the practical approach required to meet the vision for Hope in God’s Future. It is envisaged that volunteer Methodist people who have the interest and skills could be willing to advise others. These volunteers who may be existing officers can be invited to visit individual churches, attend District or Circuit meetings to assist in the implementation of carbon reduction.

3.15 **It is recommended** that a network of volunteers supported by the Connexional Team should be established and provided with appropriate technical training, to provide advice, reassurance, sign posting, resources and tools to Property Secretaries and others.

Communication

3.16 Connexional and local communications have a positive role to play in ongoing advocacy to a range of audiences within the church.

3.17 **It is recommended** that the Connexional Team provides ongoing communication through all available channels to promote solutions and actions within the context of *Hope in God’s Future*.

Appendix 1

1. Introduction

Below is a table of policies and practices that need to be noted but do not require a decision from Council. The table details the full list of policies and practices recommended for implementation by the Connexional Team. The work is in progress and will emerge.

POLICIES / Practice	Issue	Desired Output	Outcomes	Recommendation
Existing Policy				
Connexional Team Travel Policy	The Policy required some adaptation to reinforce the message of carbon reduction.	New Travel Plan to go with the recently approved travel policy. A Travel Plan determines the measures to achieve the desired policy.	Connexional Team members are provided with choice to use the best available environmental option for travel.	A Travel Plan should be drawn up to support the new policy.
Existing Practices				
Grant approval process from Connexional Grant Committee	Grants approved for activities which may have a positive or negative impact. The Fund for property now includes carbon reduction criteria.	Grant selection criteria/forms changed.	Low carbon approach to grant proposals and decision making.	Practice to be formulated by CGC to take this into consideration.

Guidelines in relation to new build and refurbishment of buildings	Building regulations for energy efficiency have been improved. There are proposals for zero carbon non domestic properties in future.	Specification tool to enable churches to engage with their suppliers regarding carbon reduction.	High standards of carbon reduction as a very outward sign of mission.	Specification should go beyond current building regulations to strive towards a zero carbon development. This should embed energy generation technologies.
District consent for proposed property projects	There is not a specific energy management question within the approval process.	Make changes to the website forms.	High standards of carbon reduction as a very outward sign of mission.	Develop and approve the consents process to enable incorporation of carbon reduction questions.
Quinquennial Inspection guidelines document	Inspection guidelines do not include specific criteria for considering carbon reduction in the inspection survey.	Make changes to the guidelines.	Church Council's are made aware of the findings related to energy, and are required to act upon the surveyor's findings.	To change the inspection guidelines to reflect carbon reduction .
Property Schedules	Currently does not cover energy management.	Make changes to the schedules.	Enable better decisions which improve performance of buildings.	All inspection schedules must incorporate carbon reduction questions.
Circuit Appointment Stationing Profile Form	Incumbent Presbyters and deacons when considering selection via stationing request forms do not know the energy performance of a manse.	Circuit Appointment Stationing Profile form to be amended.	Circuits improve the energy performance of the manse. Presbyters and deacons make an informed choice regarding energy efficiency.	Using Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) an energy efficiency rating and energy cost for each manse placed in the Circuit Appointment Stationing Profile.
Conference & Events	Impact on carbon footprint from the activities - Number of attendees, Travel,	Recommendations to be developed.	Carbon reduction significantly considered in event and conference organization.	Make changes to 'Generic events brief'.

	Accommodation, Venue, Food/ Drink, Resources e.g. Handouts etc.			
Printed media and publications	Perceived environmental impact of printed materials.	Use of low carbon print suppliers and reduce indirect energy use of paper.	Best practice in printed media.	Endeavour to use best practical environmental option.
Management of resources	Opportunities are missed to procure low carbon products and services.	Procurement guidelines developed and used.	Low carbon products and services procured to reduce indirect impacts.	Require suppliers to demonstrate credible environmental management and an effective carbon reduction policy.
New Policies				
Connexional Team Buildings	No formal Carbon Reduction Policy beyond 10% reduction commitment in 2010.	Focused carbon reduction champions supporting in house initiatives.	To be beacons of good practice within the Connexion. Staff satisfaction.	To develop a new policy statement to reduce use in Connexional Team buildings by 80% by 2050.
New Practices				
Renewable Energy	Keen interest in onsite renewable energy generation for churches.	Provide guidance on renewable energy.	Large scale implementation of renewable energy technologies.	Circuits/churches are encouraged to implement renewable energy for their churches/manses.
Property Investments	Management of emissions from property investment portfolio such as pension funds, individual trusts.	Raise commitment/interest of fund managers.	Use of influence to manage indirect emissions from owned property.	All property investments made by Trusts should ensure that steps are taken to reduce emissions from these properties.