



General Synod Report The Diocese of Adelaide

Protection of the Environment Canon 2007

Introduction:

Item 2(1) of the “Protection of the Environment Canon 2007” states:

“Every diocese which adopts this Canon undertakes to reduce its environmental footprint by increasing the water and energy efficiency of its current facilities and operations and by ensuring that environmental sustainability is an essential consideration in the development of any new facilities and operations, with a view to ensuring that the diocese minimalizes its contribution to the mean global surface temperature rise.”

Considerations by the Diocese of Adelaide prior to the Adoption of the Canon

In August 2008, the Diocesan Council endorsed the Climate Change & Sustainability Sector Agreement with the State Government pursuant to the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007 with initial focus on The Green Cathedral Project and Energy Efficiency. The Diocese participated in this project for several years, however, the initiative foundered due to changes in government priorities.

Adoption of the Canon:

The Diocese of Adelaide adopted the “Protection of the Environment Canon 2007” at its Synod held on 26 October 2008. The measure came into effect immediately.

Action Arising from the Adoption of the Canon:

Following the adoption of the “Protection of the Environment Canon 2007” the Diocesan Council concurred with the Archbishop’s Allocation of funds from the O’Leary Bakewell Fund to provide parishes a \$500 grant towards the cost of water capture and connection to plumbing up to the end of 2010 and grants were made available.

Diocesan Properties: Approach to environmental concerns; solar panels etc, trees:

Guidelines under the Clergy Housing Policy include requirements that there should be “insulation beneath the roof, a low-cost space heater and “Environmental considerations need to be taken into account in the construction or purchase of a residence. These factors should include: orientation, insulation, efficient hot water heating and storm-water capture.”

In 2013 the Cathedral installed fifty (50) 12.5 kW solar panels.

Energy Application for Electrical Equipment:

Lights in the Synod office and adjacent College have been replaced with LED.

**Care for the Environment:
Synod 2017**

At the Synod held on 28 October 2017 the following resolution was passed:

CREATION CARE

That this Synod:

1. Recognises and affirms that the earth is the Lord's, and everything in it (Psalm 24:1) and that God has given human beings the mandate to lovingly care for the whole creation (Gen. 1:28, 2:15);
2. Laments that abuse of creation has brought lasting damage to God's world and God's people;
3. Affirms a commitment to bring healing to God's creation by honouring all God's creatures and protecting them from abuse and extinction, as we await God's restoration of creation to wholeness;
4. Supports the establishment of an Anglican Creation Care Network, to encourage and promote actions towards the care of God's creation as a local response to the Mark of Mission: *to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.*

Cathedral 2019

As part of the Cathedral 150 Festival, which celebrated the laying of the foundation stone of St Peter's Cathedral by Bishop Augustus Short on 29 June 1869, a Creation Care Seminar exploring the theme "for the beauty of the earth" was held at the Cathedral on Saturday 21 September 2019. The event was sponsored by the Anglican Creation Care Network.

Synod 2021

At the Synod held on 16 October 2021 the following resolution was passed:

CREATION CARE

This Synod welcomes the Report of the Anglican Creation Care Network as it reflects on its work since 2017, and its development as a network across the Anglican Province of South Australia, and commends the following actions to the parishes and organisations of the Diocese of Adelaide:

- to encourage a more intentional liturgical focus on the beauty and wonder of God's creation, and our stewardship in creation care as an essential response to the Mission of God in Christ, including the use of liturgical resources such as the 'Seasons of Creation', 'Eco Church Resources' and others;
- to encourage parishes to include creation care in the development of Mission Action Plans, through prayerful study and imaginative action, including the use of the Anglican Board of Mission resource 'A Climate for Change' and other resources, to give due honour to God's Creation and connecting it with the faith we confess and to include progress updates in their reports to Synod;
- to encourage parishes to voluntarily undertake an Environmental Audit of their property and grounds with a view to reducing our carbon footprint, enhancing the development of green spaces, engaging in improved recycling practices, and reducing energy costs; and
- to encourage the people of the Diocese to participate in creation care learning opportunities, such as the Eco Spirituality Program in the Diocese of Willochra, the

work of A Rocha, visits to community gardens and other environmental projects, and the Anglican Creation Care Network.

- “to encourage participation in the annual SA Nature Festival (naturefestival.org.au).”
- “to encourage the Synod office to avoid the use of plastic and to require this of contractors.”

Reduce Waste & Recycle wherever possible:

Over a number of years, Synod representatives have been encouraged to view their Synod papers online in the interests of saving paper and on-line completion of surveys has been encouraged.

Following the feedback received from members of Synod regarding care for the environment, a number of improvements were introduced for the 2018 Synod that acknowledges the Diocese of Adelaide’s commitment to a cleaner and greener planet. In the interests of avoiding waste, Synod members were urged to re-use the disposable bio cups that were provided and, in addition, were given an opportunity to purchase an AnglicareSA re-usable insulated mug for use throughout Synod and beyond.

Joe Thorp
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Anglican Diocese of Adelaide

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