

Norwich Quaker Meeting - Our values on the environment

“The action we are ready to take at this time is to make a strong corporate commitment to become a low-carbon, sustainable community.” (Minute 36 BYM 2011)

In the spirit embodied by the Canterbury Commitment our Meeting recognises the need to be mindful of the environmental impacts of all our activities that relate to the material nature of our premises. We seek to create policies for carrying out new work, refurbishment and acquisition in this spirit and always to keep our concern for the environment in the forefront of our thinking as an integral part of our Testimonies. As with all our Testimonies we recognise that, in practice, following them may mean that the routes we choose are not always the easiest or cheapest but are what are required of us by our faith.

In practical matters we will put our concern at the forefront of our activities by asking the following questions:

- 1 Does it need to be done at all?
- 2 How would the benefit outweigh the environmental costs?
- 3 How can it be done with minimum environmental impact?
- 4 To what extent can we redress the green-house gas emissions both in the process and embedded in the materials by carbon offset?

These questions should be addressed at the outset and if they cannot be answered satisfactorily the project should not proceed.

We are committed to:

- Using water, materials and energy efficiently, so as to minimise waste and reduce overall consumption.
- Using renewable sources of energy.
- Trying to ensure that our suppliers and contractors share and act on our values towards the environment.
 - Encouraging all our building users to make positive environmental choices.
 - Reducing our contribution to air pollution by promoting use of public transport, walking and cycling to and from the Meeting House.
- Promoting our policy and explaining what lies behind it, encouraging members, contractors and user groups to contribute to its implementation and development.