

## Positive Action

If we are to defeat the threat of an environmental catastrophe caused by global warming, Christians are now realising that we will have to make some major sacrifices in lifestyle. Here are some simple things you can do to make a start:

### Positive action in the home

- Use energy-saving light bulbs
- Switch to more energy efficient appliances
- Turn appliances off standby when you're not using them
- Switch to a green energy supplier
- Fit cavity wall and loft insulation
- Take showers rather than baths
- Do full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher

### Positive action whilst travelling

- Take the bus or train
- Share lifts
- Walk or cycle
- Drive at less than 60 mph
- Avoid flying

### Positive action whilst shopping

- Consider food miles
- Support local farmers and producers
- Shop fairly
- Eat more vegetarian meals
- Reduce, re-use and recycle

### Positive action in the community

- Create conservation areas in gardens
- Plant fruit trees in public spaces
- Develop community gardens to grow your own
- Explore ways to generate renewable energy locally

### Positive action in the church

- Celebrate Plough, Creation Sundays and Rogation and Harvest
- Complete Carbon Footprint Audit and set target reduction
- Switch to a green energy supplier
- Join the Living Churchyard's project
- Pray and create a space where people can reflect on environmental issues together in the light of scripture

### Further advice and help

Church of England [www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org](http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org)

Methodist Church [www.stemthetide.org.uk](http://www.stemthetide.org.uk)

Christian Ecology Link [www.christian-ecology.org.uk](http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk)

Transition Cornwall [www.transitioncornwallnetwork.org.uk](http://www.transitioncornwallnetwork.org.uk)

A Rocha [www.arocha.org](http://www.arocha.org)

Carbon Reduction [www.cred-uk.org](http://www.cred-uk.org)

Community Energy Plus [www.cep.org.uk](http://www.cep.org.uk)

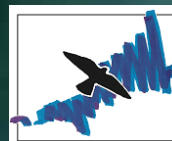
For more information and your comments contact: 01872 274351 or 01872 320103

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Images provided by BBC Cornwall, Community Energy Plus, Roger Peppiatt. Printed on recycled paper

## Caring for Creation

*We are creatures on God's earth, we have a responsibility to be careful stewards and to work with God's creation, his gift. These are worrying times as we respond to climate change, an ever increasing population and limited resources to sustain us. This leaflet suggests practical ways for us to engage in shrinking our carbon footprint and in raising the profile of environmental issues. We want to establish an environmental policy in our churches, to hear from you about what you are already doing; and to ensure it is not simply a document to which people nod agreement but that it changes our way of living and working.*

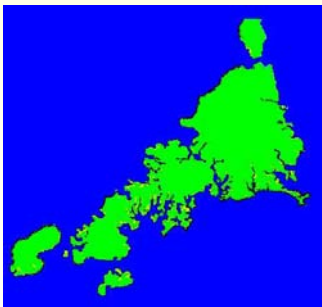


*The Rt Revd Tim Thornton,  
Bishop of Truro  
Revd Steven J Wild,  
Chair of the Cornwall Methodist District*



## *Towards an Environmental Policy for Truro Diocese and Cornwall District*

1. We are **aware** that
  - the life systems of the earth are suffering serious damage as a result of human activity;
  - our use of fossil fuels have contributed to this damage;
  - the world's poorest people are especially being affected by climate change and pollution;
  - serious steps need to be taken to alter these trends.
2. We **believe** that
  - the world is God's creation and God cares about it;
  - God is involved in the life of the world through the action of the Holy Spirit;
  - it is our Christian responsibility to alleviate the damage being done to the life of the earth and to live with love for others and for future generations.
3. We **commit** ourselves to
  - live simply that others may simply live;
  - respect and celebrate God's creation in nature;
  - radically reduce our use of fossil fuels;
  - work ecumenically alongside people and groups in Cornwall who want to put this into practice.



*Cornwall in 2050 with  
predicted sea level rises*



*Boscastle floods, 2004*

*Your Cornwall. Your Choice!*

## *"The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it" (Ps 24 v 1)*

Today our human responsibility for climate change is widely acknowledged as scientific fact. If we do not reduce our use of fossil fuels and preserve fragile eco-systems, then we shall see increasing droughts, floods, crop failure, famine, war and social upheaval.

Can we develop a better relationship with God's earth and so reverse the damage? In 2005 the Church of England's General Synod approved the report *Sharing God's Planet* which outlines a Christian vision for a sustainable future. Our world is an expression of God's love and we are stewards responsible to God (Genesis 1 and 2). The earth is not for us to exploit but to care for and preserve. We must learn to walk gently upon it.



*St. Neot lived by a pool at present day St. Neot's. This provided for his needs as long as each day he only took out one of three fish. If he did, the missing fish was miraculously replenished. One day his friend Barrius took two out, but Neot put back the extra fish to ensure sustainability.*

The Celtic saints who brought the Christian faith to Cornwall loved the psalms and absorbed their view of Creator and creation. Psalm 65 shows God underpinning his creation with love and power; Psalm 148 describes creation responding to praise and thanksgiving. We too can sing God's praise as part of his creation by living our lives in greater harmony with it.

### *Guide us as we gather*

*Eternal God, we thank you for the glory of your creation,  
A mystery that surpasses our knowledge.*

*Eternal God, we thank you for the earth and water,  
sun and wind,  
Creatures and people, nations and cultures;  
Guide us as we gather to confess  
That we have violated the gift of life given to us*

*Strengthen us as we seek to affirm that the Earth  
and all therein are yours.*

*Enable us as we seek to recall your covenant and make it our own. Amen*

