

St Paul's Beckenham Procurement Policy

1) Introduction

God created the world to be good¹, we are charged with its care² and to love our neighbours as ourselves³. We recognise that there is a climate crisis which causes environmental damage, loss of habitats and biodiversity, and unjustly impacts on those who can least afford to ameliorate their suffering.

As consumers we can make decisions on what and from whom we make purchases and as Christians we should seek to demonstrate good biblical stewardship and encourage others to do the same.

2) Scope

This policy applies, as far as reasonably possible, to all buying decisions made on behalf of the church and to all church activities. Caring for God's creation includes considering whether a purchase is necessary and whether we can reduce, re-use or re-cycle and takes into account the cost of waste and end of life recycling.

3) General Principles

- a) Through our purchasing decisions we endeavour to:
 - i) Reduce our environmental impact and carbon emissions
 - ii) Support businesses that have a positive impact on society and the environment
 - iii) Support our local economy
- b) Where possible choose to buy products with the best ethical credentials, in particular fairly-traded sourced product as indicated by independent certification or ratings eg 100% FSC certified wood products or Fairtrade certified products.

4) Caring for the earth

- a) Food: When using church finances we will endeavour to purchase foodstuffs with the lowest negative environmental impact e.g. locally sourced and produced without the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, or other artificial chemicals, and palm oil-free.
- b) Plastics: we will endeavour to reduce the amount of plastic that we use in the church and halls as much as possible. For example:
 - i) We will avoid single-use plastics, if unavoidable recycling appropriately
 - ii) We will not purchase bottled water, using jugs and glasses of tap water
 - iii) We will use or purchase items with plastic-free packaging where it does not compromise hygiene
 - iv) We will reduce laminating signs by considering whether it is essential eg for longevity
- c) Paper and Toilet Paper: we will use 100% recycled paper, with a low carbon footprint.

¹ Genesis 1:1,31; Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 104

² Genesis 2:15; Leviticus 25:23,24

³ Matthew 22:39; Luke 10:25-37

- d) Hygiene and Cleaning Products including dish washing: we will move towards using environmentally-friendly products, buying products in large and/or refillable containers to reduce our plastic use.
- e) Energy: as contracts are renewed we will select suppliers that generate equivalent renewable supply and/or increase the capacity for renewable energy
- f) Banking and Savings: as far as reasonably possible, financial institutions that promote ethical investments will be used, and those that support fossil fuels and other unethical investments will be avoided.
- g) Outdoors: we will endeavour to purchase organic (no harmful chemicals) and environmentally-friendly products, and only use peat-free compost.
- h) Flower displays: we will avoid use of non-biodegradable flower foam and endeavour to use seasonal and low carbon-footprint flowers and plant material.

5) Working for a fairer more sustainable world

We recognise that changes to our purchasing may lead to increased costs in some areas. This may mean we need to reduce expenditure elsewhere. Ethical purchasing is part of the responsible stewardship of our resources.

The clergy and ministry leadership team, PCC, and team leaders are responsible for the promotion and implementation of this policy.

Date Agreed: 20 March 2024

Review Date: October 2026