

Transcona Memorial United Church

Environmental Policy

March 6, 2022 (Draft)

Background

A New Creed

The United Church of Canada's New Creed calls us *to live with respect in Creation*.

Creation, including our Earth, is a gift from God. To show our respect for God, we must treat the gifts that God has given us with respect. This is part of our spiritual commitment.

TMUC's Mission

As a Church, we seek justice, foster and nurture growth by teaching, worshipping, through music, sharing and being welcoming to all. We value and share our gifts, protect the earth and walk humbly with our God.

In recognition of our spiritual commitment to live with respect in creation, our church community has made the commitment to protect the Earth.

Environmental Policy Statement

Every action that TMUC takes will be taken with consideration of that action's impact on the environment. We will strive to

- minimize our negative environmental impact
- maximize our positive environmental impact
- advocate for positive environmental change
- continually improve this Environmental Policy

Environmental Coordinator

A Volunteer Environmental Coordinator, reporting to the Building and Property Team, will

- oversee the application of this Environmental Policy
- consult with church stakeholders when implementing new environmental initiatives
- seek funding opportunities for our environmental initiatives

Action plan

Minimize our negative environmental impact

Purchasing

We will choose goods and services that meet our needs and minimize environmental harm by taking actions that include

- buying local when practical
- considering the environmental impact of the manufacture of products
- choosing cleaning and maintenance supplies that don't harm the environment
- buying goods with minimal packaging
- considering the disposal of unused goods and their packaging

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Energy use reduction

We will continually reduce the energy requirements of our building by taking actions that include

- using the most energy efficient option when replacing lighting sources
- improving the insulation and envelope of our building wherever possible during renovations and repair
- installing the most energy efficient equipment when repairing or replacing HVAC systems

Carbon footprint reduction

We will continually reduce CO₂ emissions by taking actions that include

- using the most sustainable power sources where feasible
- minimizing the use of fossil fuels where elimination of its use is not possible
- making the church property an idle free zone
- making the most efficient use of our vehicles as we travel on church business

Maximize our positive environmental impact

Carbon sequestration

We will work to reduce atmospheric CO₂ by taking actions that include

- nurturing our existing green space
- replacing trees that have been removed from our property

Reduce waste

We will reduce the amount of waste going to landfills by taking actions that include

- using reusable containers, dishes, cutlery, etc where practical
- facilitating recycling within our building
- composting organic waste from our kitchen

Advocate for positive environmental change

We will expand our reach beyond church activities by taking actions that include

- educating our own church community to be more environmentally conscious in their activities
- hosting neighbourhood waste reduction events
- lobbying governments to put positive environmental policies in place
- seeking opportunities to work with community partners to foster positive environmental change
- requiring users of our facilities to follow this Environmental Policy
- telling our story

Continually improve this Environmental Policy

This Environmental Policy is a living document. The Environmental Coordinator will improve this policy by taking actions that include

- monitoring technological advances for new opportunities
- seeking feedback from the church community
- seeking feedback from environmental groups and advocates
- reviewing and updating this policy annually

Resources

<https://www.united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/climate-change>

<https://www.faithfulfootprints.org/>

https://www.faitcommongood.org/greening_sacred_spaces

<https://cpj.ca/united-church-canada-climate-action/>

<https://greenactioncentre.ca/>

<https://mbeconetwork.org/>

<https://www.recyclemanitoba.ca/>

<https://www.mbenergyjustice.org/>