

# Action for Hope Policy

**“Hope is a reason for bold action in the world  
in accordance with God’s will for creation,  
not an excuse for inaction”**

**We commit ourselves and  
will encourage, enable, and support others to:**

**Speak truth to power in  
demanding climate action and justice**

**Achieve net carbon zero by 2030  
and support our members to do the same**

**Increase the positive environmental  
impact of our investments**

**Attain a gold Ecodistrict award by 2027**

## Introduction

This Manchester and Stockport District *Action for Hope Policy* is based on the *Action for Hope Plan* of the Methodist Church in Britain which builds on the 2021 resolution that:

*“Conference wholeheartedly agrees and affirms that ‘the global climate emergency is a crisis for God’s creation and a fundamental injustice’”.*

We commit to act wherever we have direct responsibility, and to encourage, enable and support churches, circuits and individual members to take action where they are responsible.

We acknowledge the excellence of the Ecochurch (including Ecocircuit and Ecodistrict) in guiding Christians to embed gospel values in how we

- worship and teach,
- manage our buildings and land,
- engage with our community and globally and
- live out our lives in witness and service.

Rather than making another set of detailed recommendations we advocate engagement with this programme.

We commit to working in partnership with Christians, those of other faiths and those with no faith, in addressing this challenge that confronts everyone on this planet.

## Speaking Truth to Power

We recognise that climate change is the result of structural sinfulness deeply embedded within our political and economic systems. We commit ourselves to the Biblical call to speak prophetically to those in power and will encourage and support churches, circuits and individual members to join us. We place a commitment to climate justice for all at the heart of this proclamation.

## Lifestyle-based Aims

We encourage individual members to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions for which they are responsible to a level of 2 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per year<sup>i</sup> by 2030 by:

- Calculating a personal carbon footprint annually<sup>ii</sup>
- Reducing this to below the UK average (10 tonnes) by 2025.
- Further reducing by 25% a year until 2030.

## Wisdom-based aims

### Ecochurch

The District will register as an Ecodistrict and work towards:

- Bronze in 2024 (requires 10% of churches to have an award)
- Silver in 2025 (20% of churches)
- Gold in 2027 (40% of churches).

It will encourage and support churches and circuits to engage with Ecochurch and Ecocircuit through an Ecochurch Support Network operating across the District.

### Annual Event

The District will hold at least one event each year addressing the climate emergency<sup>iii</sup>.

## Asset-based Aims

### Towards net carbon neutral

As part of the Methodist Church in Britain we are committed to becoming net carbon neutral by 2030 and to supporting its circuits and churches to do likewise. In the first instance there will focus on easily identifiable emissions from gas and electricity use, travel and special events. Emissions should be reduced as far as possible, and offsetting used only to cover any residual emissions.

The District is establishing a scheme that will encourage churches to commission energy audits and support them to implement small and medium-sized (up to £5,000) recommendations as quickly as possible. Work will be paid in the short-term by a District fund and with the churches contributing part of their savings in fuel bills to recover this for reinvestment in the longer-term.

### Positive investments

The District will ensure that any of its investments are held in funds managed by the Central Finance Board (CFB) of the Methodist Church which are and will strongly encourage churches and circuits to invest similarly. The CFB ensures that all funds are invested ethically and to make a positive impact on the environment.

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- <sup>i</sup> This has been adapted from the figure quoted in the Connexional [Action for Hope Plan](#) to be compatible with the recommended carbon footprint calculators.
  - <sup>ii</sup> We recommend the <https://footprintr.me> from Climate Stewards for a comprehensive footprint calculation or <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/> for a quicker estimate.
  - <sup>iii</sup> In 2022 this will be a Study Day for local preachers, worship leaders and ministers, *Biblical Worship for a Climate Emergency*.