

Introduction

Dr. Padraic Larkin (formerly a director at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Ireland) writes: "Up to the middle of the 20th century Ireland's economy was based on grassland agriculture which was not very intensive and placed little pressures on the Irish environment. Much has changed in Ireland in the past 50 years, and the pressures on the environment have grown, but overall the essentials for life of clean air, clean water and productive soil are abundant on this island."* The challenge for the next fifty years is to maintain this. An increasingly resource hungry population, in an age of 'peak oil' and global knock on effects (as witnessed in the banking and debt crisis) should no longer take this green island for granted. The church has a role in all of this as we live on God's earth with God given responsibility. *'Climate Justice in the name of Christ Jesus'* is the CSR's response to this challenge and while encouraging all church members to re-evaluate our current lifestyles, the council will continue to seek out and share best practice in living sustainably and justly.

* <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/reading-room/environment-geography/environmental-information/environment-overview/index.xml>

Environmental Policy

Climate Justice in the name of Christ Jesus

'Jesus said to his disciples, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."' - The Gospel according to Mark's record of the Great Commission.

As a missionary movement the Methodist Church in Ireland is called to preach, teach and live out the gospel of Christ Jesus. The Church, from the time of Rev. John Wesley, has attempted to bring the good news in word and action to everyone and in particular to try and address the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable.

Today as part of that call we need to address the needs of some of the poorest peoples of this world who are already suffering the most from the degradation of the planet. We must also act as wise and obedient stewards and bring good news to all of creation and the natural environment. This will involve a radical re-evaluation of our lifestyles and our use of resources, as well as, the reversal of injustices generated by greed and the constant drive for economic growth and material wealth.

We Affirm

- Our belief in God as Creator
- That we are part of an inter-dependant creation
- The variety, value and yet fragility of God's creation

- Our belief in Jesus Christ as Redeemer and Lord
- That we are in need of forgiveness and renewal
- That creation awaits its freedom from corruption and harm

- Our belief in the Holy Spirit as the breath of life
- That we need the Spirit's fruit increasingly in our lives
- That we must live as new creations at one with all creation

We Confess

- That we have failed to preach the good news to all creation
- That we have not acted to prevent the destruction of the natural world, or exploitation of its resources and people
- That we have been slow to see these as justice issues and so have not acted appropriately

The Methodist Church in Ireland is committed to justice in environmental issues. We will incorporate into our structure, resources and training the materials, education and support necessary to empower people to act justly on these issues.

We Act

- To celebrate all that is good within creation
- To develop environmental awareness in church and community
- To reduce both consumption and waste
- To appreciate and seek out local food, energy and resources
- To promote Fair Trade
- To protect biodiversity and promote sustainable development
- To reduce our carbon footprint as individuals and as a Connexion
- To encourage use of public transport and car pooling
- To ensure that any investments are socially and environmentally responsible
- To challenge and change unjust attitudes and actions

- To promote Climate Justice in the name of Christ Jesus

We Support

- <http://www.ecocongregationireland.org/>

Further Reading

- <http://www.arocha.org/>
- <http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk/>
- <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/images/F1429PDF.pdf>
- <http://www.stemthetide.org.uk/>
- <http://creationcare.org/>
- <http://www.fairtrade.ie/>
- <http://www.mrfcj.org/>

and more via CSR page on:

http://irishmethodist.org/issues/council_on_social_responsibility.php