



MAHI MIHINARE
ANGLICAN ACTION

Anglican Action Mahi Mihinare

Waste Minimisation Policy

1. Purpose

- 1.1 Anglican Action is committed to the protection of the environment through the implementation of an effective waste minimisation policy and ongoing monitoring of our systems and progress towards waste minimisation. It is the policy of Anglican Action to have in place systems and procedures that are conducive for all staff, residents, and visitors to enact best practice waste minimisation behaviour.

2. Rationale

- 2.1 As evidenced in our Mission Statement, “Anglican Action celebrates the spirituality of life...” and, “All of creation is sacred and of equal and infinite value with a soul worthy of care and respect.”

The Earth is God’s gift to humanity and to all creatures. In unity with Pope Francis we “forcefully reject the notion that our being created in God’s image and given dominion over the earth justifies absolute domination over other creatures.” As humans endowed with reason we are not the controllers and possessors of nature but its servants, just as we are servants of each other and of God.

Anglican Bishops of Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia (2015)

- 2.2 The commitment of Anglican Action to a Treaty-partnership obliges the care and respect for upholding a kaupapa Māori world-view.

Kaitiakitanga means guardianship, protection, preservation or sheltering. It is a way of managing the environment, based on the traditional Māori world view. Traditionally, Māori believe there is a deep kinship between humans and the natural world. All life is connected. People are not superior to the natural order; they are part of it. Like some other indigenous cultures, Māori see humans as part of the web or fabric of life. To understand the world, one must understand the relationships between different parts of the web.

Te Ahukaramū Charles Royal, 2007¹

- 2.3 Environmental degradation caused by economic activities in the pursuit of wealth has often disadvantaged and impacted disproportionately on the livelihoods and wellbeing of the most vulnerable individuals and communities. Complementary to this, the economic impacts of climate change also disproportionately impact on those individuals and communities who already possess the least resources.

People who are socially, economically, culturally, politically, institutionally or otherwise marginalised are especially vulnerable to climate change.

United Nations, 2004²

- 2.4 To support the wellbeing of the natural world both for its intrinsic value by us a kaitiaki and good neighbours, but also for the crucial life-sustaining ecosystem benefits provided by the natural world to human life and of flora and fauna that enables human life.

The increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions has altered the global temperature pattern and created a threat against human health and the environment. Methane emitted from landfills is one of the most important contributors to GHGs. Methane

¹ Te Ahukaramū Charles Royal, 'Kaitiakitanga – guardianship and conservation - Understanding kaitiakitanga', Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, 2007. <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/kaitiakitanga-guardianship-and-conservation/page-1> (accessed 5 February 2019)

² IPCC, 2014: Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri and L.A. Meyer (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, 151 pp.

(CH4) is regarded as one of the most important GHG because of its global warming potential, which is 28 times higher than that of CO2 over 100 years.

The decomposition of municipal solid waste (MSW), i.e., wastes generated from households and residential settings, is considered the third major anthropogenic source of CH4, and it contributes approximately 11% of the total anthropogenic CH4 emissions.

Jah et al., (2008)³

3. Responsible resource use

- 3.1 A significant body of work exists on waste minimisation practices, from the simplistic mantra of the three Rs; reduce, reuse, recycle, some expand this to 5s with the inclusion of refuse, and repurpose, to further more comprehensive models of waste hierarchies; prevention, minimisation, reuse, recycle, energy recovery, and disposal, in order of most to least favoured options.

These practices will be seem intuitive to many, however unless people are presented with the appropriate option complementary to and at the point of disposal it is difficult to enact the behaviour change. Key to the successful management of the environmental impact of waste is making it as easy as possible for people.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

- 4.1 Initial monitoring and evaluation can be done through the initial waste audit which will establish our baseline waste data.. This will also help guide what options will be best for the Mission. Once systems are in place monitoring can be achieved through simple inspection of the contents of bins to review if the current system of bins and awareness is both adequate and best practice to affect the aims of this policy.

³ Jha, Arvind & Sharma, Chhemendra & Singh, Nahar & Ramachandran, Ramesh & Ramachandran, Purvaja & K Gupta, Prabhat. (2008). Greenhouse gas emissions from municipal solid waste management in Indian mega-cities: A case study of Chennai landfill sites. *Chemosphere*. 71. 750-8. 10.1016/j.chemosphere.2007.10.024.

5. Responsibilities

- 5.1 Differing obligations are identified to ensure that across the work of the Mission everyone is presented the maximum opportunity to use minimal effort in achieving the aims of this policy.
- 5.2 Board: To ensure that management is resourced to effect this policy.
- 5.3 Management: To ensure that physical systems are in place to make diverting waste from landfill is easy and that collection systems are implemented and maintained, to ensure that training and education is made available for staff to develop the knowledge required to make best use of the systems in place, and to provide ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the systems in place to ensure they are used appropriately and are the best-fit for our needs.
- 5.4 Staff: To become active participants in making best use of the waste minimisation systems in place to avoid sending waste to landfill. And to support providing options to residents and visitors on how they may participate in the waste minimisation journey.
- 5.5 Visitors: To be made aware of the systems we have in place for the correct disposal of items. This can be through the presence of visible signage or other material.

6. Procurement

- 6.1 Procurement refers to the preferencing of purchases of both items and services to those items and contractors which have as positive an environmental impact as possible.
- 6.2 There are many things to consider in terms of environmental impact. In regards to this it is advised that a considered but practical approach be taken. Some aspects can be difficult to quantify and some if quantified can seem counterintuitive, an example of this would be that in some cases it is better to replace an old washing machine rather with a newer more energy efficient model than to repair the older model. It depends what we are considering with environmental performance in lieu of being able to assess on a Cradle-to-Grave or full life-cycle assessment. Usefully however, often the environmental preference will mirror the fiscal evaluation in purchasing items.

- 6.3 For waste minimisation a preference should exist to procure items; that contain recycled components (supporting the recycling industry), that are reusable, multi-purpose items, biodegradable items (caution that PLA plastics are not compostable in domestic compost systems), items that are locally produced, manufactured, and distributed to reduce the transport carbon footprint, items that are non-hazardous and able to be disposed of in a responsible way, items from companies that have a reduced greenhouse gas or carbon footprint, and items that are not victim to planned obsolescence.
- 6.4 Procurement without effective waste systems is limited, for example, purchasing compostable single-use plates instead of plastic single-use plates only to dispose of them into the same landfill waste stream is problematic and is an example of how procurement, practice, and appropriate waste disposal must be implemented synergistically.

7. Recommendations for Implementation

7.1 For Anglican Action Offices

7.2 Conduct a waste audit.

7.3 Establish procedures for dealing with waste streams:

- a. What to do with compostable waste? Options of worm farms, compost bins, or pig farmers (what do with paper towels)?
- b. Can we significantly increase the amount of paper going into the paper/cardboard recycling bin?
- c. Who is responsible for emptying these bins into the appropriate places? Is this this cleaners?

7.4 Purchase appropriate waste bins.

- a. In corridor outside staff kitchen to have a suite of, paper/cardboard recycling, glass/cans/plastic recycling, compostable/used paper towels/food waste, and landfill.
- b. Next to photocopier to have a paper/cardboard recycling only additional bin. Remove all desk rubbish bins.
- c. In each bathroom/toilet have a 'paper towels only' bin and a general flip-top bin for other waste items.

7.5 Education.

7.6 Monitor and evaluate.