

TOWARDS ZERO

JOURNEY TOWARDS ZERO EMISSIONS

SUPPORTING CONGREGATIONS
TO TAKE ACTION



1. Usage: measure your total usage of carbon and emissions footprint

A thousand-mile journey begins with simple steps. Climate action begins with the knowledge of your baseline.

- 1.1. Use the calculator to measure the total footprint of your congregation.**
- 1.2. Include all utility bills and measurable items listed in the calculator.**
- 1.3. Develop an emission inventory and show reduction in a three-year circle.**

2. Reduction: reduce waste and increase efficiency

Climate change is a waste management problem. The first principle of climate action is to reduce waste.

2.1. Work on passive heating and cooling

- 2.1.1. Close the vents.
- 2.1.2. Increase insulation.
- 2.1.3. Check window and door leakage.
- 2.1.4. Install window films to increase heat transfer resistance.
- 2.1.5. Install shading for north facing windows in summer.
- 2.1.6. Increase passive heating and direct sunlight in winter.

2.2. Heater, heater, and heater

- 2.2.1. Heaters are the most energy draining appliance in church communities.
- 2.2.2. Remove old underfloor or in-ceiling heaters and install reverse cycle air condition units.
- 2.2.3. Remove old electric hot water units, install solar hot water units or heat pump units. (Various government rebates are available.)
- 2.2.4. Remove old wall mounted hot water urns and install efficient units. Or simply put a timer on the urns.
- 2.2.5. Insulate your roof.
- 2.2.6. Replace active heating with passive heating technologies.

2.3. Cooling

- 2.3.1. Install efficient evaporative cooling in low humidity locations.
- 2.3.2. Use ceiling fan.
- 2.3.3. Install efficient reverse cycle air conditioning unit in high humidity locations.
- 2.3.4. Increase shading for north facing windows.

2.4. Temperature control

- 2.4.1. Set room temperature at 19-20°C in winter. In Victoria, every degree higher increase heating costs by around 15%.
- 2.4.2. Set room temperature at 25-26°C in summer. Every degree lower will increase cooling cost by around 10-15% (in relation to outside temperature).

- 2.4.3. Only heat or cool the areas in use
- 2.4.4. Only use your heating or cooling systems when you need them – switch off after use.

3. Environmental behaviour

The third principle is about “walking the talk”. The Uniting Church will model our stewardship of God’s creation through our environmental behaviour.

3.1. Saving water

- 3.1.1 Pumping water throughout the city uses a lot of electricity. Waste water treatment also releases emissions.
- 3.1.2 Install rainwater tanks for your garden and toilets.
- 3.1.3 Switch to water saving toilet fittings and taps.

3.2. Saving electricity

- 3.2.1. Switch off lights and appliances when you don’t use them.
- 3.2.2. Switch to LED lights (Various rebates and free installation are available).
- 3.2.3. Switch off computers and stand-by equipment at the power point.
- 3.2.4. Shut doors and close curtains while using active heating and cooling.
- 3.2.5. Switch to new generation refrigerators, remove inefficient freezers.
- 3.2.6. Remove cold drink vending machine.

3.3. Reduce, reuse, recycle

- 3.3.1. Reduce waste and landfill.
- 3.3.2. Reuse items.
- 3.3.3. Procure low carbon and potentially reusable items.
- 3.3.4. Recycle all the recyclable things.

3.4. Better garden

- 3.4.1. Less English garden, more Australian native flowers.
- 3.4.2. Increasing green areas.
- 3.4.3. Increase shading.
- 3.4.4. Increase water saving.
- 3.4.5. Manage and redirect stormwater.

4. Set an ambitious target

The Uniting Church Assembly has set a 2040 net-zero emission target. The Synod of NSW/ACT Synod is working with Uniting to develop a comparable target.

- 4.1. Set a target for your congregation’s emissions reduction.**
- 4.2. Become a carbon neutral community.**
- 4.3. Invest in sustainability as a key measure of climate action.**
- 4.4. Switch to a hybrid or electric vehicle.**

5. Production: generating renewable energy

The third principle is producing renewable energy locally. For a congregation it is easy to install solar panels and save.

- 5.1. Switch to renewables now**
- 5.2. Use the formula: *Emission/Offset = Usage – Reduction – Generation***
- 5.3. Install a PV system three times the capacity of your electricity consumption.**
- 5.4. Use solar to offset other emissions.**
- 5.5. Today solar and wind projects are generating electricity cheaper than coal. If your congregation is not in a position to have PV installation, switch to renewable energy.**

6. Climate Justice = Economic Justice

- 6.1. Measure your emissions together with dollar savings.**
- 6.2. Demonstrate the result in a three-year circle.**
- 6.3. Make all you can, save all you can, give all you can.**
- 6.4. Support other congregations and partner churches for climate justice.**

7. Full electrification

- 7.1. Full electrification is an important part of net-zero emission future.**
- 7.2. Plan a near future (about in 2025) when battery storage is installed locally.**
- 7.3. Prepare for a future (about in 2030) when your car park will have EV chargers.**
- 7.4. Measure your risk of dependency on non-renewable energy, take into consideration that any inaction now will have a major impact from 2030 onwards.**

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