

Shrinking the Footprint

The Church of England's
National Environmental Campaign



Shrinking the Footprint Campaign

Lambeth Palace.

12th June 2009.

Each Diocese was requested to send two representatives.

For Peterborough:

Dr. Pete Brotherton, Bishop's Officer for the Environment,

Revd Robert Hill, Social Responsibility Adviser.

Notes from the meeting follow.

Further details including presentations and transcripts available from:

<http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org/newsitem.php?id=41>

Opening.

The Bishop of London, Richard Chartres, welcomed delegates and opened the conference by commenting on the need to get our own house in order before we comment on society. He also noted that the 'apocalyptic gloom' that some writers seem to have is not appropriate for Christians; we are called to bring hope and change. With the carbon footprint of the Church of England similar to that of the Sainsbury's supermarket chain, we need to move beyond the rhetoric of 'how green are my scriptures', and help 'to allow politicians to take difficult [environmental] decisions without facing electoral suicide.' A non-partisan approach is needed.

The Bishop called for a spirit of wisdom and an integrity to our life and ministry that would look beyond the divisions of rich and poor, and simply accept the reality that we are 'all in this ark' together: We are all participants in an interconnected web of life. Happiness, he said, was about sharing enough with others. The recovery of the balance between feast and famine, the rediscovery of Sabbath/fallow times and time to build relationships were key factors in moving forward.

(Full text - <http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org/newsitem.php?id=40>)

The Government Perspective.

Joan Ruddock, MP, Minister of State, Dept of Energy and Climate Change, said that the current Copenhagen Climate Control talks were very important but the only way forward was to get a global deal. Some countries are still not taking this seriously. Science had been correct in its predictions of warming levels. Developed countries need to lead the way. They need to get on with change and not just say 'I will if you will'. Britain and the EU have set good targets and are world leaders in doing so. The USA is also now involved. It was noted that this is not just an issue for government and 'green' NGO's; faith groups are accepted as important leaders in society that can encourage individuals and groups to engage with the issues. Action is needed in our own country and is not just a matter for those overseas. Eventually change must happen because people will demand it.

(Full text - <http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org/newsitem.php?id=42>)

The Carbon Trust – Moving to a low carbon economy.

Hugh Jones, Director of Solutions at The Carbon Trust, noted the long term and ongoing 'carbon journey' that this country needs to be on. There is no quick fix. He gave figures that indicated the range of attitudes to 'Green' strategies in large and medium companies: Whilst less than 10% had done nothing, only 1% of large companies (0% medium) fully incorporated 'green' thinking.

However, 52% of large and 40% of medium sized companies saw carbon savings as a priority consideration for their companies, not least because of factors like company image and even employment attraction (employees wishing to work for 'green' companies). A study of non-domestic buildings (to be published in Aug. 2009) estimates that 60% of the buildings that will exist in 2050 are already here. Many of these were built before the tighter regulations of the 1980's – therefore much work is needed to raise standards of existing buildings rather than just focus on new buildings. The study finds that, on average, for a non-domestic building, 37% of energy is spent on heating the space, 27% on lighting and 10% on catering. There are interest-free loans available for improvement work: The Carbon Trust can advise on where to get such grants. <http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org/misc lib/carbon trust presentation.ppt>

Questions to the Speakers.

When asked about the relationship between the Dept of the Environment & Climate Change and **English Heritage** with regard to changes to listed buildings, Joan Ruddock said that a balance needs to be struck between the desires of the two parties.

The question of **China's production levels** brought the response from the Minister that we do need to encourage China to develop but that we should help them do so in a way that reduces damage to the planet. However, we do want their products as cheaply as we can, and their carbon output per person is still only half of the UK's. (China = 5 tonnes per person per year, UK = 10 tonnes, USA = 20 tonnes). Hugh Jones noted that the supply chains are so intertwined that easy comments about China become meaningless. He gave the example that it was cheaper in carbon terms, to import butter from New Zealand produced in December than to make butter in England during December (due to energy needs ie, lighting and heating the dairies).

Whilst national government speaks about change, **is government doing enough to resource** local government? Joan Ruddock reminded delegates that central government can only spend what it receives from the public.

The Minister, in answer to a question regarding **grants programme** for installation of micro-generation plant, said that the programme was to be re-launched. However, Hugh Jones said that the putting up of micro-turbines was more to do with reputation than real carbon savings. He and the Minister agreed that ground heat pumps are a better, if less visual, option. 'Sustainability' is more than just about reducing carbon emissions.

The **priority that local authorities** put on carbon emissions was questioned. The Minister noted that local authorities have key performance indicators that they must achieve. These include carbon limits on larger buildings.

The Minister was asked to comment on the idea of enhancing '**feed-in tariffs**' for those who produce energy. She said that this was indeed being considered.

The Shrinking the Footprint Path.

Carbon Management – "Steps to the 80% Church: 20.12% by 2012...?"

Steven Bowler of the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division, Archbishop's Council, outlined the history of the Shrinking the Footprint Campaign. He noted that we need 'holistic' rather than 'silo' thinking about the way we can reduce our carbon footprint. We must stop the talking and get on with it. We can take simple steps like building a good relationship with the Carbon Trust and similar organisations. We can also working the areas of; energy mitigation, improving the efficiency of our assets, buying 'green', producing 'green' energy, offsetting, and reviewing what we do.

Looking at our [energy and travel] carbon footprint, around 3 million tonnes are produced by the individuals of the church and around 1.1 million tonnes our institutions (buildings etc). Of that 1.1M, about 2/3 of that figures relates to our schools and 1/3 to our cathedrals and church buildings.
http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org/misc_lib/stf_the_story_so_far.ppt

The Church of England Carbon Management Programme.

Malcolm Hanna and Oliver King of AECOM (formerly Faber Maunsell) gave an overview of their work and links to other agencies. They have researched the main carbon management 'drivers' for business: Reputation, Opportunity (quality of life), Cost, and Regulation. There is a need for a policy framework in the church, and they suggest an achievable goal set year-on-year, rather than a straight push for a much larger target. Suggested goals for the medium term are: 5% for cathedrals and churches, 10% from changing policies (transport & procurement), and 40% on clergy housing. Tools for achieving these figures are available on the Shrinking the Footprint website.

A question from the floor brought up the issue that 'the church' is not just the buildings, it is the people. There is a need to look at all emissions produced by the church and not just the emissions that come under the financial control of a PCC etc. The speakers agreed, but that would need a mindset change in people, and a focus on the buildings etc is a good starting place for that.

Climate Justice Fund. (To be launched in September 2009)

Dr Charles Reed (Mission & Public Affairs Div., Archbishop's council)

The website gives various tools for engaging with climate issues – including a Carbon Calculator. It is aimed at all levels of the church and is a CofE initiative, managed by Tearfund.

http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org/path_climate_justice.php

The Diocesan Experience:

Exeter.

Martyn Goss (Exeter Dioc. Dir. Of the Council for Church and Society) spoke of their 25 year history in this work. He outlined their strategy based on 5 key areas, Property & Plant, Transport, Procurement, Theology & Worship, and Personal Lifestyles. A Diocesan Carbon Management Plan is to be developed. The Diocese of Exeter has also written to every Diocesan Secretary inviting them to bring a motion to their respective Synods regarding this issue.

As part of his presentation, a map was shown giving the location of 'Transition Communities'. There appears to be very few such communities in our diocese.

http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org/misc_lib/exeter_diocese.ppt

London.

Brian Cuthbertson (Head of Environmental Challenge) outlined their plan to cut emissions by 20.12% by 2012. Parish returns were being used to report progress. One parish saved 77% on their energy bills just by changing their lighting system. Their achievable aim is to reduce emissions by ¼ tonne per person per year. They are developing strategies based on generic types of buildings.

http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org/misc_lib/london_diocese.ppt

Newcastle.

Dr Rob Kelsey (Dioc. Env. Officer) and Ian Beswick (Property Manager) spoke of the partnership between the Dioceses of Newcastle and Durham to improve the energy rating of their buildings – especially their clergy housing. Following an energy audit, work undertaken has improved energy efficiency and reduced costs for the clergy (an encouragement for them to use energy wisely).

http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org/misc_lib/durham_newcastle_dioceses.ppt

Portsmouth.

The diocese has linked up with the on-line community 'Generous', an online community of individuals, families, households, embarking on small everyday lifestyle changes in favour of all the people and the whole of the planet. Simple suggestions for everyday targets.

<http://portsmouth.generous.org.uk/>

Bishop Downing (previously of Canberra & Goulburn, Australia) spoke of the dominant narrative in society that demands economic growth. He noted that the economy and ecology must be seen together, and called for an increase in environmental issues being taught in churches (Season of Creation: Sept – Oct). The church needs to be a strong advocate in this issue. Big companies are changing (such as BHP & BP) but they cannot set the 'goal posts'.

New Partnerships:

Environment Agency

Rachael Gilmour noted that bishops will be linked to by the Env. Agency Team. The speaker encouraged everyone to 'tell it as it is' but to also talk of hope, not just of gloomy predictions. Incentives and regulations have done some good. There needs to be an appeal for people to go beyond their immediate desires.

Natural England.

Dr. Pete Brotherton outlined the loss of biodiversity in this country over the past few years and showed why this matters. He asked what the church can do and noted that about 100,000 hectares of farming land are owned by the church along with churchyards and other property that can be used in a positive way to encourage biodiversity. He asked who we were keeping our graveyards so neat and tidy for. Pete also noted that we have influence in a huge number of schools as well as in local and national government. Natural England have a useful website that churches can see at:

<http://www.ecocongregation.org/>

http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org/misc_lib/biodiversity_natural_england.ppt

Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management.

Alastair Moseley (President of the CIWEM) Noted what can happen when people take an issue seriously – giving the example of the Ozone layer recovery. He called for better water management for churches and communities: for example, installing tanks to catch rain water from church roofs.

http://www.ciwem.org/policy/policies/environmental_limits.asp

Closing questions and comments.

Steven Bowler asked delegates to:

- Look at the various toolkits on the Shrinking The Footprint (STF) website and feed-back comments about these.
- Tell STF the stories of engagement within diocese.
- Report back to their own diocese after this gathering.
- Ask the questions: Do we (in our diocese) know our own figures; Who knows our environmental stories; Who sustains contact with other agencies, diocese and groups.

Rt Revd Richard Chartres closed the day by underlining the point that the Environment is not an add-on; it has an impact on all aspects of the church and Christianity.

Notes by R. Hill.