



CatholicCare Environmental Policy Statement



CatholicCare is the official social service agency of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Sydney. Our Mission is to be Christ's liberating presence through the provision of quality services for the social and emotional well being of the communities, families and individuals living within the Archdiocese.

We believe that the environment is God's gift to humanity. In our use of the environment and its natural resources, we have a responsibility to minimise the adverse impacts that we cause so that future generations can enjoy what is truly a magnificent gift from God.

CatholicCare has a duty to care for and conserve the earth's resources, as a steward rather than as a consumer. CatholicCare works for the integrity of creation in ways which assist all people in our community to have equity and access to a greater share of the earth's resources by encouraging environmental sustainability and respect for the environment. We will strive to achieve this by reducing our impact on the environment where possible and influencing other organisations to do the same.

Environmental objectives

CatholicCare acknowledges that its activities and decisions can have an impact on the environment and have therefore taken steps to minimise this impact. To do this CatholicCare will:

- Set measurable targets for minimisation of waste and the creation of pollutants
- Continually strive to improve on its environmental impact reduction strategies and targets,
- Comply with all relevant environmental legislation,
- Provide support for staff to achieve recycling and sustainability targets,
- Undertake a wide range of environmental activities which will enable the environmental objectives and targets to be met,
- Annually review/update the organisation's environmental practices,
- Communicate the environmental practices and beliefs to all people in and working with CatholicCare.

The actions taken to meet CatholicCare's environmental objectives and targets will be realistic, achievable and will aim to prevent or reduce the impact on the environment.

As we strive to achieve our Mission, we will remain true to the commitment given by Pope Benedict XVI in Caritas in Veritate (2009, #48): **"The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole"**.

Bernard Boerma
Chief Executive Officer