

**National Christian Council of Sri Lanka
Carbon Footprint Policy**

Introduction

The scriptures clearly indicate our responsibility to the environment and provide us with practical alternatives to protect the environment. The Lord has provided the full responsibility for us to be faithful stewards of the creation.

In the book of Genesis we are told that humans were created in God’s image and given a divine mandate to care for Creation (Gen. 1:26-31). Our vocation—our calling—is to partner with God in preserving and sustaining the earth with all the creatures and species that God has made. The word used in most translations is “dominion,” and the true meaning is what we would today call “stewardship.”

As a Christian church/organisation we have a direct concern for the well-being of our neighbours and a responsibility to care for creation. This policy seeks to guide the way which we take responsibility for reducing any harmful effects on the environment that we as a community may have. It also seeks to promote the understanding of sustainability in its broadest context. This will involve considering our effect as a community ourselves, our interaction with our local community and surroundings and as part of the global community and seeking to minimise our impact on the environment in all of our activities.

The carbon foot print policy is a document that all constituent members of the National Christian Council adhere in our effort in saving our planet. This policy will be made available to all as a guide for the decision making as appropriate. It can also be given to all users of the premises along with any advisory materials which may from time to time become available.

Who can stop climate change? We can. We have a responsibility to do so that began when God commanded the earliest human inhabitants of the Garden of Eden to 'till it and keep it'. To keep it; not to abuse it, not to destroy it

Desmond Tutu

The Scope

We recognize that the day to day operations have an effect on the local/regional environment by contributing to green house gas emissions. It is our goal to minimize our contribution to green house gas emissions as well as to save energy where ever possible and practical. The carbon foot print policy provides a guideline to staff as well as all our stakeholders on how to contribute in minimizing carbon footprint whenever they are involved in working with us.

What is a Carbon footprint?

Carbon footprint is the sum of emissions of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) which are induced by an organization, event, product or individual which is usually calculated on monthly or yearly basis. Carbon Dioxide is a green house gas which contributes to global warming and climate change. In order to save planet Earth from these catastrophes, an organization and individuals have to minimize the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by their day-to-day activities.

What is the damage caused by us?

Every facility we use is at cost to the environment, increasing the amount of carbon dioxide with every activity.

Fuel	Unit	CO ₂ emissions
Electricity	kg/kWh	0.71
Diesel	kg/l	2.74
Gasoline	kg/l	2.28
LPG	kg/kg	2.73
Kerosene	kg/l	2.52
Firewood	kg/kg	1.51

Table 01: Standard measures of CO₂ emission from fuel types
Source: Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority

Aims of the carbon foot print policy

Our aims are:

- To use water and energy efficiently and, where possible reduce use;
- To use less, waste less and recycle more;
- To use more renewable sources of energy
- To encourage our members and all our building users to make positive environmental choices;
- To lower our community carbon footprint through promoting alternative means of transport for church purposes;
- To try to make sure our suppliers, contractors and user groups share our values towards the environment;
- To promote a more sustainable approach to our life style as individuals, as a community and as an organisation within its locality.
- To be an example in our villages, districts etc. of how to make a meaningful response to the challenges posed by climate change and the need for a more sustainable lifestyle.
- Follow the ten guidelines provided by the World Council of Churches

In order to achieve these aims we shall communicate clearly with all users of the premises as we take action as described below;

What we can do:

- Reduce waste and all materials that can be recycled to be segregated into specific waste bins and sent to recycling stations
- Recycle waste instead of burning
- Stop using all polythene products
- Recycle old computers
- Repair rather than throw away where we can
- Recycle at any given opportunity
- Utilize energies and water sparingly
- Consider environmental impacts in our purchasing
- Reduce the need for transport and its impacts on the environment
- Minimize the use of paper in our office through the use of email
- Switch off lights, A/Cs and fans as we leave our rooms
- Checking and switching off all electrical items as we leave for the day
- Planting trees in the compound and encouraging the planting of tree in public areas and home gardens

What we will begin to do:

Electricity

Electricity is the main factor that generates a maximum amount of CO₂ from day-to-day activities at our premises. Therefore, the main focus is to reduce the amount of Carbon Dioxide released by consumption of electricity.

A/C

- ❖ Set the temperature of the AC to 26 degrees Celsius
- ❖ Close all doors and windows and seal all air leaks when A/C is on
- ❖ Keep filters and vents clean as blocked filters reduce air flow and force compressors to work hard
- ❖ Turn off A/C when you leave your room for more than five minutes

Lights

- ❖ Turn on lights only if needed. When the lights are turned on, turn them off if you leave your room for more than five minutes
- ❖ Use of LED bulbs
- ❖ Decorate interiors with light coloured walls/ ceilings

Electric items

- ❖ Reduce excessive demand for electricity by timely maintenance of electric items

Transportation

Transportation is the second most CO₂ generating area at NCCSL. The following steps are suggested to minimize the damage caused by transportation.

- ❖ Encourage members to consider public transport whenever possible
- ❖ The optimum fuel economy in a vehicle can be achieved at 50 km/h
- ❖ Using/buying fuel efficient vehicles such as hybrid or an alternative fuel vehicle
- ❖ Combine errands into one trip
- ❖ Keep tires properly inflated and aligned to improve mileage
- ❖ Use the grade of motor oil recommended by the vehicle manufacturer. Using a different type would reduce mileage
- ❖ Clear unnecessary things from the vehicle. Extra weight also reduces mileage
- ❖ Timely maintenance of vehicles in order to reduce emission of smoke
- ❖ Paying attention to the emission test license of vehicles owned by NCCSL and its employees

Events

It is essential to ensure that we stand by the policy during gatherings and events.

- ❖ Refrain from bringing plastic water/ drink bottles, plastic and rigid foam meal boxes into the premises
- ❖ Refrain from using polythene
- ❖ If an event holder needs to bring above items for an event, they are requested to take the waste back without disposing them at the premises
- ❖ Banners and posters designed for publicity should be made using degradable material
- ❖ Non recyclable material should not be distributed at workshops as much as possible

Use of paper

The more we use papers more trees will be cut, leaving no room for the environment to produce oxygen to balance the excessive release of CO₂.

- ❖ Use email and electronic copies as much as possible
- ❖ Minimize using papers as much as possible
- ❖ Print on both sides of printing papers as much as possible
- ❖ Handing over the waste papers and books to a recycling facility rather than burning them

Waste

Methods of disposing waste is an area that is not given attention, yet causes considerable damage to the atmosphere through ways of disposing such as burning.

- ❖ Reuse, or recycle, all packaging materials such as cardboard, polystyrene, shredded paper etc.
- ❖ Refrain from using polythene
- ❖ Recycling degradable waste rather than burning (e.g.: garden waste, food etc.)
- ❖ Installing recycle bins and compost bins at NCCSL premises

Water

When most of us think of slowing global warming, we think of reducing car exhaust and power plant emissions – limiting activities that involve combusting fossil fuels. But we rarely draw the connection between the production of energy and another important resource: water - Water is an absolute necessity for human beings. Yet, finding ways to minimize water consumption wherever possible is a good approach in reducing the carbon footprint.

- ❖ Ensure all taps are properly closed and repaired regularly to eliminate wastage of water.
- ❖ Encourage careful water usage in day to day affairs
- ❖ Ensure that all bathrooms are free of leaking taps, cisterns etc

Teaching and awareness

It is important for the congregation to understand the impact and be involved in the carbon reduction.

- ❖ Conduct bible studies, teachings for different groups eg. Sunday School, youth etc
- ❖ Raise awareness on carbon usage and encourage members to reduce carbon emissions.
- ❖ Conduct tree planting campaign and community awareness on nurturing the environment

Some simple ways to measure

It is important to keep a track of our carbon footprints

- ❖ Track the electricity bill to understand the usage of energy
- ❖ Track the water bill to measure the water usage
- ❖ If any staff member has decided to use public transport or alternate transport he/she can keep a track of carbon emissions reduced

Declaration

I have read the Carbon Footprint Policy and place my signature in witness thereof, agreeing to abide by it at all times.

Name:

Designation:

Address:

Signature:

i) Name of witness:

Signature:

Date:

ii) Name of witness:

Signature:

Date: