



Green Investment Declaration – Case studies

We are grateful to the Society of the Holy Child Jesus and the Diocese of Truro for sharing their stories of faith-aligned investing in climate solutions. We hope that they provide encouragement and inspiration as you consider your journey towards moving your money into tackling the climate crisis.

Society of the Holy Child Jesus

“We live the Incarnation in the ordinariness of our everyday life, including the economic aspects of our lives.”

The Society of the Holy Child Jesus is a Roman Catholic Religious Congregation of women. The European province is a registered charity whose resources are for mission and our management and use of them are expressions of the Society’s mission. Our constitutions state that *‘God has chosen to need women and men in every age to reveal divine love and to make known the reality of the Incarnation.’* Our understanding of Incarnation today embraces the whole of creation and the flourishing of the whole web of life. This understanding impels us to address matters of social, economic and environmental justice and other urgent issues of the day.

We live the Incarnation in the ordinariness of our everyday life, including the economic aspects of our lives. It is important to us that our investments, like all of our resources, are aligned with the guiding principles of the enhancement of human dignity and care of our common home and the values that flow from this: justice, peace and compassion.

Moving into sustainable investment

Our investments are held in pooled funds. Our first move into more sustainable investing was in response to the launch of a new fund, a Paris-aligned investment solution for charities, by one of our investment managers. The next step was to place some of our funds in a multi-asset fund designed to have a

positive impact on people and planet. More recently we worked with FaithInvest to create an Investment Policy and Guidelines more in line with our values. We now have clearer guidelines in our policy and require more value-based reporting from managers.

Making an impact

Our investments are supporting people and the planet in different ways; for example, by supporting climate solutions, investment in renewables, investment in companies that are Paris-aligned. We wish to see our investments aligned with the Net Zero Asset Managers Commitment goals to achieve a net zero target by 2050, and a 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030.

Diocese of Truro

“As faith organisations, we have the opportunity to play a significant role in fighting the climate crisis, but only if we can demonstrate that we do indeed cherish creation, we are cutting carbon and we actively speak up about it.”

So much of what we are doing in the Diocese of Truro stems from or is designed to support our [environment strategy](#), summarised as Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon and Speak Up. Most people are aware of the [Anglican five Marks of Mission](#), and environmental issues speak directly into the last three: responding to human need; transforming unjust structures in society; and striving to safeguard the integrity of creation.

As a faith organisation we need to be demonstrating our commitment to reversing the decline in biodiversity and cutting greenhouse gas emissions. We also need to “speak up” and seek to be an agent for change. It is often said that actions speak louder than words, but we need both.

Our environment strategy encompasses so many aspects of life in the Diocese and every committee overseeing a key area provides quarterly updates to the Diocesan Environment Board on progress towards our strategy. That includes our housing, our land holdings, our investments, and our buildings (the cathedral, our churches, our church schools and the diocesan offices). It even includes scrutiny of all our policies, to ensure they either actively support the environment strategy, or are neutral. A diocesan policy should never act against the strategy. Unfortunately, too many organisations set net zero goals but don't allocate any

or sufficient resources to achieving it, and in an election year it is sad to see our political parties rowing back on environmental commitments.

So, what does this look like in practice?

Let's start with our clergy housing. In 2021 we had no houses with an EPC rating of A. Most were rated D. Two and a half years on, we have 13 houses rated A, and we expect to reach about 20 by the end of this year. This is out of a portfolio of about 120 houses. So, we already have 11% of our houses as close as we can get to net zero, we are heading to about 17% by the end of this year and we will continue to work through the whole portfolio. Whilst we have sold and bought some houses, most have involved retro-fitting the houses, with improved insulation, solar panels and air-source heat pumps. This is not a cheap process, and the Diocese has allocated reserves to improve its housing stock.

Our investment portfolio was easier to deal with. We wanted to come out of fossil fuel extraction altogether. When one of our fund managers could not offer a fossil fuel free portfolio, we sold all our holding with that fund and reinvested with two new funds with high ESG credentials. We also invested in some infrastructure funds, including renewables. This was as an alternative to gilts, but it also allowed us to reinvest directly in the environment. We estimate that 10% of our investment portfolio is now in renewables.

What about your land holdings?

We hold quite a bit of land too, known as glebe land. The majority of this is agricultural land leased on farm business tenancies. We have carried out a high-level analysis looking at all the potential future uses of each piece of land. Much of our increase in our asset base has come from selling land either for open market developments or for social housing. However, we also actively look for other opportunities. We have mapped our land against the grid in Cornwall to try to identify sites where we might develop renewable projects – mostly solar farms and / or battery storage. We are talking to developers about Net Biodiversity Gains and using our land to meet the requirement for a 10% increase in biodiversity for each development. We have looked into woodlands, carbon capture in grasslands and wild meadow fields, and flood defences. Whilst it is early days yet, we have already leased some land to support environmental schemes.