

## St James's Piccadilly Sustainability Update February 2017

The community at St James's is committed to active care for planet earth, our common home, and has been involved in a range of environmental initiatives for the past decade and more.

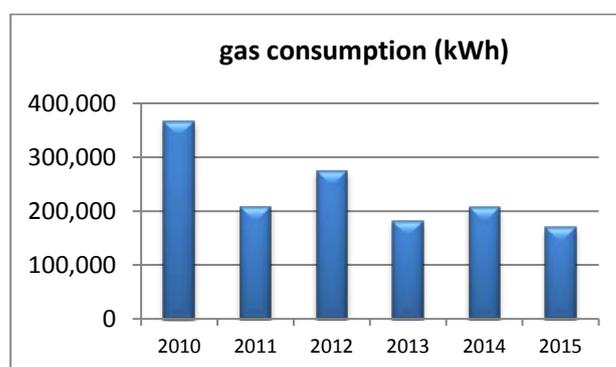
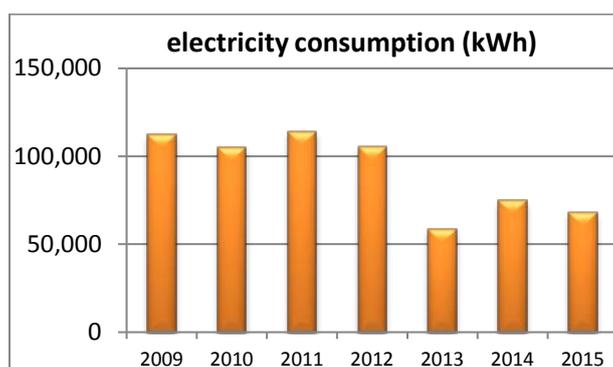
### 1. Shrinking the Footprint

Shrinking the Footprint is the Church of England's national campaign to reduce energy use and therefore carbon footprint by **42% by 2020 and 80% by 2050**, in line with statutory national obligations. We undertook an energy audit in 2008, implemented a range of actions to reduce our energy usage, and have recently been re-audited:

Fig. 1 Comparison of our two energy efficiency audits

Measure	2008 audit	2016 audit
Dual fuel (gas and electricity) efficiency	F	D
Total carbon emissions	F	D
Overall efficiency (taking account of high church usage)	C	A+

Fig. 2 Trends in electricity and gas consumption at SJP



We use much more gas than electricity, but electricity is responsible for much more CO<sub>2</sub> production, so we continue to work at reducing both. Some key points:

- We have reduced both gas and electricity consumption by about 45% since 2009, ahead of the 2020 target, and thereby saved many thousands of pounds in energy bills
- We have generated about 3500kWh of solar energy each year for the past 11 years. This represents about 6% of our electricity use. Seven years ago, this figure was about 3%.
- We purchase our electricity and gas from Ecotricity - a not-for-profit company which invests in 1kWh of renewable generation for every 1kWh purchased. This means we have contributed to about 11,000kWh of renewable generation to date.

Next steps on the road to 80% reduction in energy use by 2050 include carbon offset, paying attention to our investment and procurement practice, and 'spreading the word' through writing a case study, the diocesan Environmental Consultative Forum, and talks in other churches.

## **2. Eco Church**

Eco Church is a points-based awards scheme designed to encourage environmental awareness and action. The Eco Church vision is for churches of all denominations to care for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbours. To achieve an award, good practice must be demonstrated across five key areas: Worship and Teaching; Buildings; Land; Community and Global Engagement; and Lifestyle. We achieved a bronze award last year and are well on the way to the silver award. Our Eco Church actions cover a wide range of activity. The examples below give a flavour:

- Organising a programme of events and social action in the run up to the Paris climate summit
- Toilet twinning
- Running the course 'Love for the Future' during Lent last year
- Ethical / sustainable procurement, including following LOAF principles
- Installing LED lighting across our courtyard market
- A service of blessing for cyclists
- Our Eco Fun Palace
- Engagement with Fair Trade and Share Action
- Working towards accreditation with the Anglican society for Welfare of Animals

We want our environmental awareness and action to be much more than achieving accreditations. We aim to transcend some of the negative and 'hair shirt' connotations associated with being eco-conscious, and place our concerns and actions in a wider, more hopeful context, rooted in sustainable community. Our Eco Fun Palace and outdoor liturgies celebrate the natural world, and our political and social engagement aim to raise energy and promote hope for the future.

## **3. The Southwood Garden and biodiversity**

The Southwood Garden, a largely dry shade habitat, is managed specifically to enhance biodiversity. We have installed bird boxes and feeders, compost bins and insect friendly spaces, and will shortly install water butts. We participate in several local and national initiatives focussed on biodiversity:

- The Crown Estate 'green corridor' biodiversity action plan aims to create connected habitat from Regents Park to St James's Park. The Southwood Garden is a key green space in this corridor, and we have recorded several species of bat, a kestrel and a stag beetle in recent years.
- The Wild West End initiative promotes wildlife in the city through a range of greening measures, including planters and pop-up green spaces.
- The London B-line is a landscape-scale, partnership approach to pollinator conservation in an urban context. The B-line runs from Enfield to Croydon and includes our site.
- We take part in the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch each January, encouraging our church community out into the garden.
- This year we aim to take part in Bat Fest, National Pollinators Awareness Week, and Moth Week.