

## Catholic Charities Green Policy

“We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God’s creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.” United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

In an effort to celebrate and protect Creation by being good and faithful stewards of God’s gift of Creation we commit to a sustainable model of operations. A sustainable society understands that the Earth has a limited amount of natural resources. As responsible residents of a sustainable environment we seek to develop lifestyles and change habits both personally and institutionally.

Catholic Charities of Southern MN commits to the following ideals at our offices, functions, presentations, seminars, and celebrations:

1. Refraining from use of Styrofoam.
2. Refraining from single-use plastics – including coffee stirrers; purchasing/using wooden stirrers and avoiding straws.
3. Refraining from single use plastic water bottles, using pitchers of water instead.
4. Encouraging use of coffee mugs in place of disposable cups.
5. Consider using 100% recycled paper in all publications and office printers.
6. Will consider for any new buildings or renovations, the latest in “green” technology from solar panels to geo-thermal heating units.
7. Recycling 100% effectively – and working with our buildings’ maintenance and managers to do so.
8. Workshops and/or written guidelines provided on how and what to recycle.
9. Encourage people for a meeting to run their own agendas rather than running multiple copies.

\*All employees should share the load in washing dishes if we are not using disposable plates and plastic utensils.