



Church joins green drive

STUART INNES

THE Uniting Church in South Australia has joined the push to be carbon neutral, including a carbon offset program for its vehicles.

In an eco-friendly move, the church is looking at having rainwater tanks and solar power for some congregations and it has gone "green" at its head office, with paper recycling and a compost bin. It is also reassessing lighting and heating and installing

toilets that use less water. The state's biggest Toyota car retailer CMI Toyota yesterday announced the Uniting Church was the first organisation to commit a fleet of vehicles to CMI's carbon neutral program.

Depending on the type of vehicle acquired and the expected distance it will cover each year, a voluntary financial levy is used to plant the appropriate number of trees on land near Kanmantoo in the Adelaide Hills.

Within three years, 70 per cent of the vehicles in the 100-strong church fleet will be in the scheme to offset their carbon emissions.

First to get a carbon-offset Toyota will be the church's solidarity and justice officer, Kate Tretheway.

"The church is concerned about the state of the planet and about safeguarding the integrity of God's creation for the sake of future generations," she said yesterday.

"Seeking ecological justice is a key element in the Uniting Church SA's new strategic plan which will include a theological and practical response to environmental issues."

Uniting Church chief executive for SA Rev Dr Graham Humphries said the church had responsibility as a good environmental steward.

"We hope that our example will inspire other individuals and companies," he said.



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