

Name of policy	GOV ILC- Creation Stewardship policy
Last updated/reviewed	June 2026
Update interval	Every three years
Authorised sign-off	BMS Board of Trustees

BMS Creation Stewardship policy

Introduction

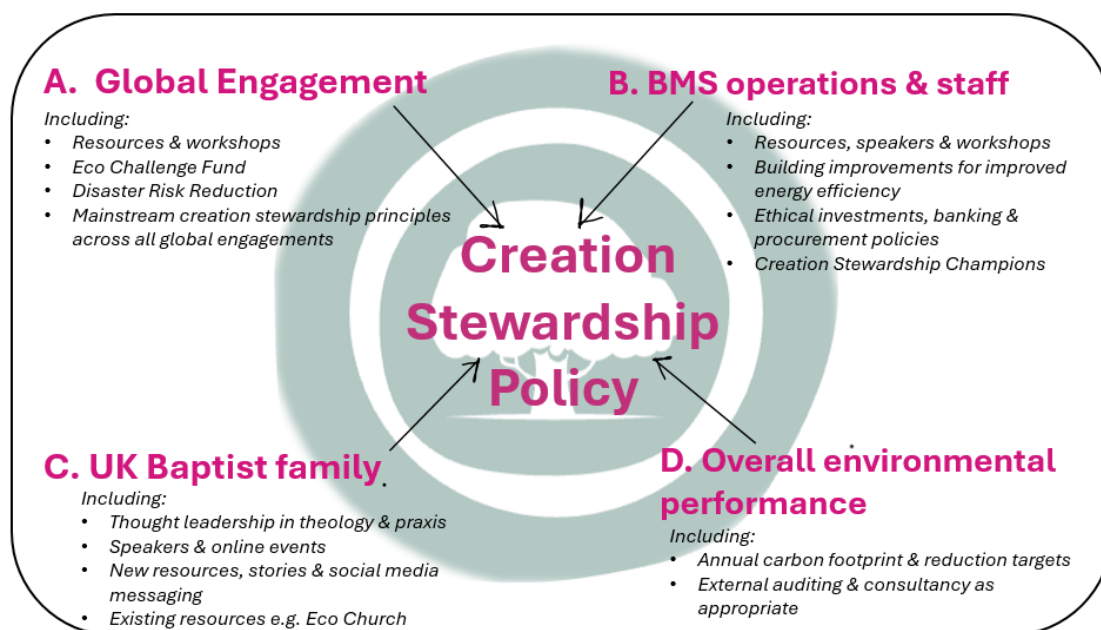
At BMS World Mission, we are working for a world where all can experience faith in Christ and the abundant life only he provides. When we speak of *abundant life*, we think not only of fullness of life in spiritual terms, but also in physical terms. The two are inseparably intertwined in the reality of being human, living on planet earth.

We believe that when Jesus said that he came that his sheep might have life in all its fullness (John 10:10), that included the experience of living and mutual flourishing in God's creation, that is, this Universe in which God also created human beings.

Consequently, we are convinced that addressing environmental degradation is a matter of missiological urgency. Therefore, as we seek to partner with the Holy Spirit in enabling God's kingdom of wholeness and peace (in Hebrew: *shalom*), we will cherish the creation which the Creator himself called "good". An in-depth theological discussion of this topic is provided in our [Theological Foundation for Creation Stewardship](#).

Creation Stewardship Framework

In practice, at BMS we have established an institutional framework for applying creation stewardship principles across all aspects of our work:



Creation Stewardship Commitments

A. Global Engagements

We are committed to creation stewardship in all our global engagement: through the actions of mission workers, in respectful collaboration with partner organisations, hubs and networks, and through the programmes and projects we support.

We commit to:

1. Investing in thought leadership, incl. theological reflection on creation, for our mission workers and within our global engagements.
2. Reducing the amount of international air travel by our staff by identifying parameters which enable us to re-assess our international travel, seeking to ensure that BMS staff engage in only essential travel.
3. Actively supporting mission initiatives which seek to bring an environmental benefit
4. Mitigating the effects of environmental degradation caused by the activities BMS supports and collaborates with.
5. Improving the resilience of communities who are vulnerable to the effects of climate change
6. Mainstreaming creation stewardship principles across all global engagements.

B. BMS operations & staff

We are committed to creation stewardship through our physical presence, in operations and buildings, and in collaboration with Baptists Together (Baptist Union of Great Britain) and Baptist House Corporation.

We commit to:

1. Investing in theological and environmental education for all staff
2. Implementing direct, environmentally conscientious changes to our buildings and operations
3. Adjusting our procurement practices to reflect our commitment to environmental sustainability
4. Encouraging and equipping all staff to become advocates for creation stewardship in their wider spheres of influence

C. UK Baptist family: UK supporters, including churches and ministers

We are committed to creation stewardship together with our supporters, being individuals, churches and ministers. We will support them in their role as creation stewards both locally, with resources for reflection and suggestions for action, and internationally, through their prayer for, financial support of, and involvement in BMS' work. We will also collaborate within the Baptist family to reflect on the impact of environmental challenges, including climate change, on mission.

We commit to:

1. Investing in theological and environmental education for UK ministers and congregations.
2. Motivate churches to reduce their environmental impact through the purchase of sustainable products and materials, while sustainably managing their waste.
3. Encourage churches to make environmentally responsible choices when considering their utilities and necessities.
4. Encourage churches to promote and advocate for ethical environmental practices.

D. BMS Overall environmental performance

We recognise the importance of holding ourselves accountable to our commitments to creation stewardship.

We commit to:

1. Set achievable environmental targets and goals, such as a quantitative carbon reduction target, to be assessed annually to determine areas needing further attention.
2. Seek external auditing of our performance and practices with relevant expert organisations and consultants, at five-year intervals, as appropriate.
3. Effectively communicating this policy and subsequent information to trustees, staff, personnel and supporters.

Implementation of this Policy

Overall responsibility for tracking and facilitating the implementation of the commitments outlined in this policy currently sits with the Creation Stewardship Co-ordinator, within the Capacity & Cross-Cutting Themes team (Department for Intercultural Learning and Collaboration).

A breakdown of the policy commitments, their modes of implementation across BMS with key roles/departments responsible, and the progress achieved since the last policy review is provided in the [Creation Stewardship Policy Implementation and Progress Tracker](#).

Supporting Documents

[Creation Stewardship Policy Implementation and Progress Tracker](#)
[Theological Foundation for Creation Stewardship](#)

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