

Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management

Environmental Policy

Policy statement: The Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management will do all in its power to promote and facilitate the provision of burial and cremation services, and those ancillary thereto, with due regard to environmental impact and will seek and encourage service options that eliminate the risk of harm to our environment.

The Institute will endeavour to alert the public, Funeral Directors, memorial masons, florists and others that have input into funerals to items, products and procedures that have improved environmental benefits over those currently employed.

The Institute will disseminate environmental information and good practice guidance through the Charter for the Bereaved, its Guiding Principles and other associated policies and guidance notes.

General

The Institute will:

- Promote the total cessation of all emissions from crematoria that may damage the environment
- Promote and recommend products used in embalming that have insignificant impact on the environment in terms of pollution of ground water.
- Encourage the use of material other than chipboard, fibreboard and plastic in the construction of coffins and cremated remains caskets.
- Promote the reduction of the use of plastics in floral tribute construction.
- Provide the bereaved with information on funeral options that have a lesser impact on the environment e.g. Woodland burial.

Burial

The Institute will promote and encourage:

- The formulation of comprehensive cemetery management plans designed to protect the environment, character, biodiversity, landscape and heritage value of cemeteries.
- The additional use of cemeteries as educational resources and valuable community assets.
- Lobby for change in legislation to allow the selective reuse of graves in order to transform cemeteries into sustainable community assets.
- The use of environmentally friendly chemicals to clean memorial stones, as an alternative to caustic acids



Cremation

The Institute will:

- Support the following resolutions:
 1. **The Cemetery & Crematorium Working Committee of the European Federation of Funeral Services:**
“By 1st January 2012 the installation of filtration equipment at all crematoria should be mandatory in Europe. Emission limits and their measurement should be standard across Europe”.
 2. **The European Parliament** - "Mercury in dental amalgam represents the second largest stock of mercury in society.. and that emissions from crematoria will be a significant source of mercury pollution for many years to come, unless abatement techniques that can considerably reduce these emissions are put into place very soon".. The European Parliament also resolved to "ask the European Commission to take further measures, in the short term, to control mercury emissions from crematoria, given that this is an increasing and worrisome source of emissions".
- Promote and encourage the recycling of metal residues following cremation and its advantages to charitable causes.
- The recycling of any other material for which the permission of the executor or nearest surviving relative for cremation has been obtained.
- Promote the recovery of mercury from abatement filtration sorbant.
- Encourage more efficient use of cremation equipment thus reducing the amount of fossil fuel consumed.

Maintenance of Cemetery & Crematorium Grounds

The Institute will promote and encourage:

- Composting a greater amount of mown grass, leaves, flowers and other plant material removed from the grounds.
- Reduction in the use of herbicides/chemicals and peat.
- The retention of cut timber in habitat piles, rather than burning, which releases carbon content.
- Increasing tree planting in order to offset carbon dioxide emissions.
- Sourcing alternatives to teak, mahogany and other hardwoods, used in the construction of garden seats.

