



Assessing the Environmental Impact of a Funeral

Less environmentally friendly, less sustainable & more intensive methods			More environmentally friendly, more sustainable & less intensive methods	
Embalming using Formaldehyde based fluids	Embalming using natural products with fluids drained in sewerage system	Embalming	No embalming, refrigeration of body prior to funeral if over 5 days away	No embalming, refrigeration of body prior to funeral of less than 5 days
American casket / traditional coffin made from non sustainable timber of metal	Conventional coffin made from chipboard / MDF with veneer & plastic handles	Coffin choice	Cardboard, bamboo or similar green product, but not locally produced	Locally produced in wicker, papier mâché, wood from sustainable sources
Air freighted flowers with plastic wrappings and oasis	Air freighted flowers with recycled Wrapping and green material composts	Floral tributes	Locally produced flowers with recycled wrappings and green material composts	Garden / home produced flowers with no wrappings or charity donations instead of floral tributes
Same day cremation in a conventional coffin (maximum emissions)	Eco coffin (50% reduction in emissions) or deep burial, burial in clay soils or within the water table (potential for water pollution)	Burial & cremation	Burial in re-used or reclaimed grave. Burial in a natural / woodland burial site where grass is intensively mown	Burial in natural / woodland burial site where grass in mown no more than twice yearly
Conventional Cremation with an inefficient cremator	Cremation with staffing shifts and coffins held up to 48 hours to reduce fuel consumption	Energy Use	Burial in mechanically excavated grave	Burial in hand excavated grave

Less environmentally friendly, less sustainable & more intensive methods			More environmentally friendly, more sustainable & less intensive methods	
Funeral over 20 miles from home	Funeral within 20 miles of home	Funeral Travelling	Funeral within 10 miles of home	Funeral within 5 miles of home
Memorial made from imported stone	Memorial made from UK stone	Memorial / Headstone Choice	Memorial made from recycled stone or wood from a sustainable source	No memorial erected or one made from paper, vellum, leather etc or a Memorial Tree Scheme
Visit each day to leave Air Freighted Flowers, Plastic Pots, Ornaments etc.	Approx 3 visits per week to leave Air Freighted Flowers, Plastic Pots, Ornaments etc.	Tending a Grave	Regular visits leaving UK Grown Flowers or other "green" products and all waste recycled	Low or no visit frequency with no tributes left.
Visit each day by Car	Approx 3 visits per week by Car	Grief Travelling	Approx 6 visits per year by Car	No subsequent visits or visiting by foot.
Intensive Mowing programme, High Level of Maintenance, no conservation area	Lower Maintenance frequency, some native planting and conservation work	Cemetery Management	Some Conservation works, tree planting and limited intensive mowing	Ecological Site Management Plan

If you would like a copy of this publication in your own language or in an alternative format such as large print, braille or on tape, please contact 01352 703360 or 703361 or 703362