



green fuse funeral directors

contemporary funerals with heart and soul

green fuse is recommended in Best Funeral Directors
in the Good Funeral Guide



Helpsheet:

10 tips for a greener funeral

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Make your final statement for a more sustainable world by choosing a green funeral

1. Plan your funeral in advance. Make your choices and let those left behind know exactly what you want. Funerals are often organised quickly by people who feel under pressure and it's easy for those left behind to be swept into making conventional choices you may not have made.
2. Choose burial rather than cremation. If you can find a cemetery or churchyard that is reusing old graves, that's a very good option, as is a woodland or natural burial site if it's not too far away. You can also have a burial on private land.
3. Don't be embalmed. Embalming is a process whereby your blood and body fluids are replaced with a mixture of water and formaldehyde, a substance which can cause allergic reactions, mental disturbance and is linked to several forms of cancer.
4. Choose a natural, biodegradable coffin made in the UK, for example one made from cardboard, recycled newspaper board or willow. If you buy a plain cardboard or pine coffin, you then give your family and friends the option to decorate it beautifully, with water based paints.
5. Or don't use a coffin at all, but a shroud instead. There is no legal requirement to use a coffin, for burial you can use a shroud (check your local cemetery rules), which is just to wrap the body in a thick material, or you can purchase a beautiful natural felt shroud.
6. Minimise the amount of fuel needed to transport the coffin and the mourners. There is no legal requirement to use a big, petrol-thirsty hearse. We often use a diesel MPV – or you can use a family car.

7. Hire a bus to transport mourners to the funeral if you need to travel a number of miles to the nearest crematorium or natural burial ground.
8. Choose your memorial carefully. Many memorial stones now are made from stone that's imported from as far away as India and China. Choose local stone if possible.
9. No cellophane. Insist that the florist does not wrap flowers in cellophane. Ask them to use only natural materials, and seasonal and local flowers if possible. Use flowers and foliage from the garden when available.
10. Make a carbon offset from your estate. Most of us have a large carbon footprint. A great legacy to leave is to make a contribution to the Woodland Trust or other tree-planting scheme, or a carbon offset scheme. An average offset costs £8,000 - £10,000.

For further information and more ideas like this, buy our book *We Need To Talk About The Funeral - 101 Practical Ways To Commemorate And Celebrate A Life*, by Jane Morrell and Simon Smith, available at bookshops or download from www.greenfuse.co.uk/funeralbook.htm for £14.99.

Green Fuse can help you make all your arrangements as funeral director, or just help you with the ceremony as funeral celebrants.



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green fuse is a full member of SAIF (Society Of Allied & Independent Funeral Directors) and abides by its code of conduct. Executive member of the Association Of Green Funeral Directors



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Green Fuse Limited: proprietors Jane Morrell, Simon Smith

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