

Energy Footprint Tool



Calculate your carbon footprint.

Churches and church halls use the **Energy Footprint Tool**
Access via parishreturns.churchofengland.org/

Schools, cathedrals, TElS and offices use the **Energy Toolkit**
Access via eft.parishreturns.info/

Open 1 Jan - 31 Jul 2023 (for 2022 bills)

What is the Energy Footprint Tool (EFT)?

EFT is a national Church of England tool for churches to record churches' energy use and calculate their carbon emissions. It forms part of online Annual Parish Returns.

This helps us reduce our contribution to climate change, a vital part of Caring for God's Creation.

How to use the EFT

Log in at [Parish Returns](#).

Just enter your Username and Password, then you're into the system, ready to go.

To request a login contact : reception@southwell.anglican.org

The system opens each year in January. Churches need to complete their entries by the end of July, when the system closes to new entries.

Energy use figures can be taken either from energy bills for the whole year, and/or meter readings from the beginning and end of that year. It is helpful to have those bills or readings to hand before logging in.

Energy can be reported in kilowatt-hours (kWh) or the volume on the meter (cu metres for metric meters, 100s of cu feet for old imperial meters). If these figures are not available, it is possible to report the cost. Either quantity or cost is sufficient. However it is helpful to enter both; this helps the system to estimate one from the other for those who have only put in quantity, or only cost.

You will also need to enter any other types of heating such as heat pumps.

Efficiency compared to building use

To access EFT's efficiency assessments for a church, it helps to have completed the Statistics for Mission sections in their annual return. Some of this data is borrowed by EFT – it will just pop up pre-completed when going on to EFT.

Efficiency compared to building size

In addition a floor area for the church is needed, in square metres (= square feet divided by 10). That can be estimated from a plan, or by the church's Quinquennial Inspector. The Church of England already has this data for many churches. If they do have it for the building(s) being reported, the number will just pop up in the right box. If that figure is not correct, the entry can be amended.

Church halls

Once figures for the church building have been entered, any hall or other building with its own meters should also be reported on. A separate page or pages are provided for that purpose. The system points you where to go.

Solar panels

The size and any generation by solar panels on the church or hall roof should be reported.

The system works out gross energy and CO₂e, then net figures after subtracting any electricity exported from solar panels.

Green energy and offsetting

The system also subtracts green energy from net figures. Green electricity (and, rarely, green gas) are taken from a short list of utilities and tariffs that have been examined by the Church of England.

These ‘Green Energy Suppliers’ are in a drop-down list, to be selected if applicable.

It is also possible to report any extra offsetting included in an energy tariff. This is accounted separately from your gross and net footprints worked out as above.

Work-related travel

Information on work related travel may also be entered, to estimate its carbon footprint.

Submitting figures

If not all the data needed is to hand, it is possible to save and come back later. Don’t forget to come back and complete your entries!

Once entries are complete, and the ‘submit’ button is clicked, the church’s read-out is returned.

More information and resources

For any questions or help, contact Diocesan Environment Officer (DEO), [Robert Cleave](#)

For further information and guidance see:

- [Energy Footprint Tool](#)
- [EFT update.](#)
- [Energy Footprint Tool Instructions](#)
- [Paper Copy of the Online Questions](#)