

Southwell & Nottingham DAC

Net Zero Guidance for Church Buildings


The 300 church buildings plus church halls generate 28% of our diocesan carbon emissions.


Background


In February 2020 General Synod debated and proposed a motion setting a target for all parts of the church to work to become carbon 'net zero' by 2045. This was amended during debate to 2030 and passed.

In May 2022 Diocesan Synod approved the "Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Environment (Caring for Creation) Policy" and committed the diocese to the 2030 target.

In July 2022, General Synod endorsed a national 'Routemap to Net Zero Carbon' which is the vehicle by which dioceses can achieve net zero carbon. It sets out key milestones for the various parts of the diocese, including schools, cathedrals, diocesan offices and churches, and also defines how the national Church would be contributing to these milestones. In October 2023 Diocesan Synod approved the [Southwell and Nottingham Net Zero Carbon Action Plan](#) based on the Routemap. This involved extensive consultation with stakeholders across the Diocese and committed the diocese to becoming net zero carbon by 2035 as detailed analysis demonstrated that the 2030 target date was unfortunately both unrealistic and impractical.

 The first step is for churches to measure their energy use, using the [EnergyFootprintTool](#) (EFT). Last year 79% of churches recorded their energy usage but we need all churches to do so. Then take simple steps to reduce energy use following the [Practical Path to Net Zero Checklist](#) (PPTNZ). Energy Audits costing about £500 can help identify savings. A quick win is to switch to a renewable source when this becomes possible. It is important to plan ahead for boiler replacement. 51% of our church emissions come from the top 20% of carbon emitting churches so these will be the priority and each should develop their own Net Zero Carbon Action Plan.

 Churches now applying for an energy related faculty (such as heating, lighting, re-roofing, insulation etc) are required to demonstrate their Net Zero commitment and progress by completing the 'Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon' checklist and annually entering their energy usage into the [Energy Footprint Tool](#). This will demonstrate to the DAC and then the Diocesan Chancellor, what efforts are being made to help sustain the church building towards a carbon zero future.

 As part of the 'Caring for Creation' all churches are strongly encouraged to become Eco Churches with [Eco Church A Rocha](#)



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The Southwell & Nottingham Diocesan Synod and Board of Finance.

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The Faculty Process & Permissions



The revisions to the Faculty Jurisdiction from July 2022, added items and amended items within the List A and List B matters, which are works that may be undertaken without a faculty subject to specified conditions. List A works can be done without authorisation but List B works come to the DAC and are then approved by the relevant Archdeacon for the parish concerned. [A & B Lists 2022.pdf](#)

Where a matter to which the net zero guidance applies, is included in List B, the proposal sent to the Archdeacon **must include** an explanation as to how the applicants, in formulating the proposal, have had due regard to that guidance. The same will apply to any related works that require a full faculty application when the proposal is sent to the Diocesan Chancellor.

Failure to submit the supporting Net Zero documentation will result in delays with the approval process, so please include the EFT details and the PPTNZ checklist.

Options







The revisions to the List A & B lists have been designed to encourage parishes to not only think about Net Zero and their commitments to reducing their carbon footprint but to enable changes to the way they heat and care for their church [Net zero carbon church | The Church of England](#)

However, they have also been designed to get parishes to think twice about keeping with solid fuels and consider, where feasible, a change from oil or gas and move over to a more sustainable fuel source, usually electricity. This is not to say that a church could not install a more efficient gas boiler, should the existing one break down but that good reason and argument would need to be provided and a commitment to changing to net zero in due course would need to be given e.g. using the PPTNZ checklist and evidence from your EFT.

All churches should be working towards Net Zero Carbon following the Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Action Plan [Net-Zero-Carbon-Action-Plan-4.4.pdf \(anglican.org\)](#)

Things you can do to help achieve Net Zero:

-  switch to 100% renewable electricity (seek out a Green Energy provider).
-  upgrade and improve the lighting to LED lamps and fittings.
-  improve heating controls by optimising heating settings and/or improve the efficiency & longevity of the existing heating system; reduce background heating hours or the temperature.
-  look at draught proofing around the building and add insulation to loft areas and cavities and consider secondary or double glazing (UPVC should be a last resort if at all possible).






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-  consider solar panels and the use of energy saving devices eg for water cisterns.
-  change the heating system to a new non-solid fuel option eg electric heaters, electric boiler or electric under pew heaters.
-  consider suggestions from the [heatingchecklist](#).

Grants and Funding

[Environmental-Grants-List-updated-June-2023.pdf](#)

References and Resources

The Churchcare website has some invaluable documents with regard to heating here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/heating>

[ThePracticalPathtoNetZeroforChurches](#)

[ElectricVehicleCharging](#)

[HeatingPrinciples](#)

[SolarPanelsandFaculty](#)

[HeatingChecklist](#)

[Biomass](#)

[HeatingOptionsAppraisal](#)

[Lighting](#)

[Floodlighting](#)

[EcoChurch](#)

[ClimateSunday](#)

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