

Net-Zero Quick Wins Grants

Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham Eligibility Guide

Eligible buildings

Churches and church halls where activities are taking place in a building owned by part of the CofE.

Ineligible buildings

CofE congregations meeting in rented or leased accommodation owned by others. Cathedrals, schools, housing, and other building types.

Eligible work

The building itself:

- A1. Repair to the roof and rainwater goods (e.g. gutters, downpipes)
- A2. Fix any broken windowpanes* and make sure opening windows shut tightly
- A3. Insulate around heating pipes
- A4. Draught-proof the gaps* or put up a door-curtain*.
- A5. Rugs/floor-coverings (with breathable backings) and cushions on/around the pews/chairs.
- B1. Where there is an uninsulated, easy-to access roof void, insulating the loft*.
- B2. Installing a glazed door within your porch or a draught-lobby*.
- B3. Creating one or more smaller (separately heatable) spaces for smaller events.
- B4. Fabric wall-hangings or panels, with an air gap behind.

Heating and lighting:

- A7. Matching heating settings better to usage *.
- A10. Replace lightbulbs with LEDs, where simple replacement is possible.
- A11. Replace floodlights with new LED units.
- A12. Install a HIVE- or NEST-type heating controller, to better control heating.
- A13. If current appliances fail, replace with A+++ appliances.
- B5. Learn how the building heats/cool and the link to comfort, by using data loggers.
- B6. Improve heating zones and controls.
- B7. Install TRVs on radiators in meeting rooms & offices.
- B8a. Under-pew electric heaters *.
- B8b. Infra-red radiant panel heaters*.
- B9. Magnetic sediment “sludge” filter to extend the life of the system.
- B10. Thermal and/or motion sensors on lighting.
- B11. Install energy-saving device such as Savawatt on fridges or other commercial appliances.
- B12. Installing a smart meter, to better measure energy use.

2. Temporary heating solutions, which enable a church or church hall to avoid undertaking a like-for-like oil- or gas-heating replacement, when their heating breaks down:

T1. Heated chair cushions *

T2. Boiler hire

T3. Electric heater hire or purchase *

It is expected these temporary solutions will last for not more than one year, whilst the church makes plans, seeks advice, applies for faculty, and fundraises. At the end of the temporary period, once the church has installed their permanent heating solution, the diocese has the right to ask for items which have been purchased to become the property of the diocese, in order that they can be lent to other churches.

3. Electrical upgrades to enable direct electric heating, heat pumps, or solar panels

E1. Upgrades to the electrical system, to enable a church or church hall to move away from oil or gas heating, or to substantially reduce their use of existing oil or gas heating.

4. Other

O1. Heated chair cushions, which either replace or significantly reduce the use of oil and gas fired space heating *.

O2. Solar PV, where a church can demonstrate it has completed all other measures to transition to net zero carbon, and so this is the next step

* If interiors are of historic, architectural, or artistic interest, professional & DAC advice must be sought before these steps are taken. If they could disturb bats, advice must be sought.

5. Other eligible costs

VAT (for unlisted churches and work to listed churches which falls outside the eligibility of the Listed Places of Worship (LPW) grant scheme). It will be assumed that PCCs will apply to the LPW grant scheme wherever possible.

Other criteria for being eligible for a grant

The applicant body must have legal responsibility for the repair and maintenance of the building. This will typically be the PCC but may in some cases be some other properly constituted body.

Grants will not exceed £5,000 (or £6,000 for an unlisted building – inclusive of VAT) and can be used to fund part of a larger scheme. The grant will not cover VAT where the VAT can be re-claimed through the Listed Places of Worship Grant Reclaim scheme.

The work must not have started before the appropriate permission is obtained and the required funds are secured (i.e. grants pledged or monies in hand) and all works need to be completed before 31st December 2025.

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A quotation will be required for all works and work costing more than £3,000 will need to be subject to some form of competitive procurement (normally by obtaining two, or more, quotations for comparison) on a best value basis. A full competitive tender exercise will not be required unless the nature of the work or other factors make it necessary. Where comparative costs are not obtainable, the applicants should state why this is the case in their application.

It is likely that we will be oversubscribed in relation to the funding available, if that is the case then eligible grant applications will be prioritised using the following criteria:

- Churches that have completed a Practical Path to Net Zero Checklist and works are selected from this document.
- Churches that have completed an Energy Audit and works are identified in this document.
- Churches that were within the top 20% carbon emitting churches in the diocese based on figures submitted 2023.
- Churches that have entered their 2024 energy usage data using the Energy Toolkit (deadline June 25).
- Churches that have not previously received a Net Zero Carbon related grant.
- Church Urban Fund Parish Deprivation Score
- Churches that are up to date with their Parish Share payments (or have engaged in discussion with the Diocesan Board of Finance concerning an inability to cover payment).

Further advice and guidance can be sought from Church Building Support Officer – Stephen Watson – Stephen.watson@southwell.anglican.org