

Net Zero Carbon 2030 Impact Report



January 2023 – March 2024

Working together to care for God's creation

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

“Jesus noticed nature and so must we. The Gospels are full of stories of the growth of seeds, the choking of thistles, the beauty of lilies and the fruitfulness of trees. We have the privilege and responsibility to care for the earth and to tread gently on it.”

The Rt Rev'd Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich
Church of England Lead Bishop for the Environment.





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Welcome

Welcome to the first Impact Report for the Church of England Net Zero Carbon Programme.

This report covers the period January 2023 to March 2024, enabling the Net Zero Carbon Programme Board to report on a full year of activities from March 2023, as the first three months of 2023 were focussed on mobilising the programme.

We hope this Impact Report gives you a taste of the work of the Net Zero Carbon Programme and that you will be encouraged and inspired as you read about the difference already being made to reduce carbon emissions in our buildings.

In July 2020, General Synod voted for the whole of the Church of England to achieve net zero carbon by 2030.

The vote recognised that the global climate emergency is both a crisis for God's creation and a fundamental injustice.

A plan of action, called the *Routemap to Net Zero*, was later created and approved by General Synod in July 2022 and the Church Commissioners pledged to invest £190 million from 2023 to 2031 to help all parts of the Church of England reduce its carbon emissions.

Since then, a Net Zero Carbon Programme Board and a small central team has been established to help deliver a programme of support to dioceses, parishes, cathedrals, schools and other buildings to help reach net zero carbon by 2030.

The Church Commissioners released £30 million in funding for the development phase of the programme (2023-2025) and this has been allocated to a series of grants and projects with a focus on reducing carbon emissions from our highest emitting buildings.

Part of this work will include looking at the fabric of a building first – ensuring our buildings are insulated well, windows are maintained and draughts are reduced - prioritising heat conservation over heat generation.

Already, a network of professional net zero carbon officers are now in post across many dioceses, supported by national funding, and these experts are helping to deliver local carbon reduction projects in parishes and dioceses. Churches, cathedrals and schools are making great progress in reducing their carbon emissions and many have found that making small changes first can make a big difference.

We recognise that the Church of England's ambition to reduce the carbon emissions from our buildings to net zero by 2030 is hugely challenging, but caring for God's creation and reducing the impact we have upon our planet are fundamental aspects of our Christian mission. The Anglican Communion's fifth mark of mission calls for us to 'strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth'.

By 2030, our vision is that our buildings will be bright, warm and welcoming spaces, consuming much less energy and emitting less carbon than they do now. And that will be good for the people who use the buildings, and good for the whole of creation.

The Rev'd Canon Dr Flora Winfield

Third Church Estates Commissioner and Chair of the Net Zero Carbon Programme Board

Julian Atkins

Net Zero Carbon Programme Director





Our progress so far



41 Capacity Building grants for dioceses to fund **53** roles which is the equivalent to **43** full time posts



New Communications Toolkit

created to support all **42** dioceses

£3.7M

external funding has been brought in through generosity, statutory funding and trusts



46% of churches

submitted their 2022 energy data using the Energy Footprint Tool, up 43% from the 32% who submitted data for 2021



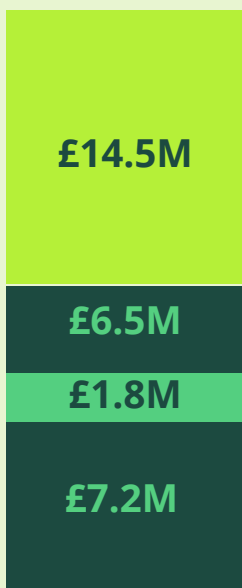
4,865 Churches engaged with A Rocha UK's Eco Church Scheme.

Of these **47%** achieved a Bronze Eco Church Award



Through the **£5.02M** Demonstrator Churches project we aim to reduce carbon emissions by **6615 tonnes by 2030** – targeting the highest emitting churches across the UK

£30M of Church Commissioners funding



Projects and grants established

Projects funded and grants signed

Core programme costs

Allocated but not yet committed



35 people are already in regional net zero officer and manager posts



"This is the only planet that we have and God created this planet as a gift, and we are participators with God in the mission of God bringing towards the kingdom of God here on earth."

The Rev'd Canon Grace Thomas, Diocesan Environment Officer
Manchester Cathedral



100 retrofit surveys complete on clergy and retired clergy houses



12 Church of England schools

from **6** dioceses have been awarded funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS)

114 Churches

from **42** dioceses will be invited to be Demonstrator Churches



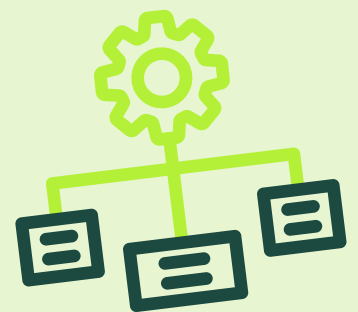
26% of dioceses have completed pilot projects to reduce carbon emissions from clergy houses



£2.4M Quick Wins Fund

was launched and will grant around **£50k** to each diocese to support small-scale net zero projects in parishes through to 2025

The Education Team, working with DBE Services and Arcadis developed a **National Framework for Schools decarbonisation**



GIVE TO GO GREEN

Churches taking part in the pilot Give to Go Green parish match-funding scheme raised **£162,155** for small scale net zero projects, with **73% of churches** of churches raising more than their target amount, some by 200%.



Reaching net zero carbon



Watch a short video and find out how churches, cathedrals and schools are reducing their carbon emissions

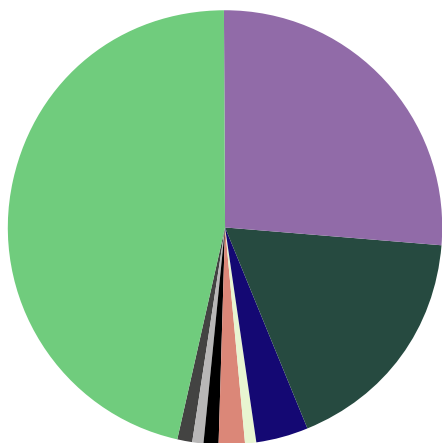
The Church of England's Net Zero Carbon by 2030 Programme aims to equip, resource and support all parts of the Church to reduce carbon emissions from the energy used in its buildings, schools and through work-related transport by 2030.

The Routemap sets out the challenge that being net zero carbon means that the carbon emissions of our buildings and work travel will be reduced by at least 90 per cent compared to our baseline levels.* Any remaining emissions (no more than 10 per cent) will be offset in verified schemes that remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

That means overall, our buildings and travel will not contribute to rising carbon emissions: their contribution will be 'net zero.'

Many of the steps needed to reduce energy use will make our buildings warmer and more welcoming, so they are more suitable to be used more often by more people and can save us money on our running costs.

** Our initial carbon footprint baseline is 415,000T CO₂e based on estimates from the analysis of our Energy Footprint tool (2020 data). This figure may change as we refine and improve our carbon emissions measurements.*



Where our emissions come from:

● Schools	48%
● Churches	27%
● Housing	18%
● Church Halls	4%
● NCIs	1%
● Cathedrals	2%
● TEIs	<1%
● Other property	<1%
● Work related travel	<1%

Data taken from the 2021 Energy Footprint Tool

The initial phase of the programme has focused on improving the data which underpins our footprint calculation as well as piloting approaches to support dioceses and parishes in delivering decarbonisation projects on the ground.

These pilots will give us insight into what is achievable in terms of emissions reductions, the capacity needed to deliver this and how much it will cost.

We have built evaluation of these approaches into the programme and will share the data, and progress towards the 2030 ambition, in future reports.



A message from Bishop Graham Usher

Caring for our precious, beautiful, vulnerable planet is an essential part of responding to God's call to us to be stewards of creation.

We see the impact of the environmental crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and how this is being felt most strongly in communities that are least resilient around the Anglican Communion. Both the science of climate change, and the data about species decline and loss, are clear and terrifying.

This Net Zero Carbon Impact Report illustrates the incredible progress being made by all parts of the Church of England to reach the goal set by the General Synod to be Net Zero Carbon by 2030.

This programme of work is not something to be added to mission, evangelism and worship. It is part of our mission, evangelism and worship because Christian discipleship is lived out in creation care.

The American lawyer and environmentalist Gus Speth is quoted as saying:

"The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy, and to deal with these we need a cultural and spiritual transformation. And we scientists don't know how to do that."

As Christians we can contribute to that spiritual transformation as we seek to live the 5th Mark of Mission to 'strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew life on earth'. It is what surveys of younger Christians and seekers say they expect.

Our work to reverse the damage we have done to the world, through our care, prayer and action, is also a chance to live our faith alongside our neighbours we might not usually get the chance to engage with. As such, our activities in this area can become evangelistic opportunities.

Every environmental action we take, from installing solar panels to encouraging wildlife in our churchyards, from using renewable sources of energy to communities growing food, is a step towards caring for planet, nature and people. It also means cheaper bills and makes our buildings more sustainable.

I hear so many positive stories about how the Net Zero Carbon Programme is supporting, encouraging and galvanising our church and school communities to contribute time, energy and finance to this work. There is much appreciation for the new support that is being given, and a passion for the journey ahead to net zero carbon.

Seeking to heal our breaking planet, and tread more gently on it, is not a luxury in the ministry of the Church; it is an imperative for the mission of the Church.



The Rt Rev'd Graham Usher

Bishop of Norwich and Church of England
Lead Bishop for the Environment

The milestones achieved along the Routemap to Net Zero Carbon

The Routemap to Net Zero Carbon contains milestones and actions for all parts of the Church. Here are some key milestones achieved.



July 2022:
Routemap to Net Zero Carbon approved by General Synod. **Completed.**

Spring 2022:
Church Commissioners commit £190M to the Net Zero Carbon Programme.

Feb 2020:
Ambition to reach net zero carbon by 2045 taken to General Synod.

July 2023:
Develop a national Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon for Clergy Housing. **Completed.**

Feb 2020:
Amendment from the General Synod to a 2030 target.

December 2023:
10% of local churches in every diocese registered for Eco Church and 5% awarded at least at bronze. **Completed.**



2020



2024



February 2024:
Develop a national Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon for Clergy Housing. **Completed.**

March 2024:
All cathedrals to have sustainability reviews completed. **95% completed.**

March 2024:
Net Zero Carbon Action Plans accepted by Diocesan Synods. **35 completed.**

February 2024:
Provide a template for an 'Annual Resilience Statement' which schools can adopt. **Completed.**

February 2024:
Develop and share a Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon for Church Schools and a template Net Zero Carbon Action Plan. **Completed.**





Getting Started

Through our national Net Zero Carbon Programme we are providing financial support to dioceses to help parishes in making progress with their net zero plans. We are also offering grants to help deliver a wide range of net zero projects to help us move closer towards our goal.

To help deliver and manage this process, as well as raise awareness and provide support to parishes, the Net Zero Carbon Programme has issued **41 Capacity Building Grants** to dioceses to help support **53 new posts**.

Building a network of expertise

More than 60 people working to reduce carbon emissions across the Church of England gathered in Gloucester to share ideas and learnings.

A two-day Net Zero Carbon Connect Conference, sponsored by Ecclesiastical Insurance, part of the Benefact Group, was held to gather and connect new net zero colleagues from 35 dioceses and other partner churches to share expertise on the Net Zero Carbon Programme.

Supporting dioceses

Grants and projects worth £19.7M were launched to help churches, cathedrals and schools kickstart local net zero carbon projects.

To help raise awareness of the grants available and the support on offer, as well as inspire people to take action – a comprehensive Communications Toolkit was launched to dioceses. The toolkit bolsters the existing resources and support available through our webinar programme and the Net Zero Carbon Resources Hub.

The toolkit includes graphics, a programme logo, key messaging, example stories for websites and newsletters, photographs and videos – all aimed at supporting dioceses in their net zero carbon communications.

Encouraging diocesan collaboration

18 dioceses are now collaborating on net zero through 6 regional clusters. For example, the Capacity Building Grant has enabled the Dioceses of Portsmouth, Chichester and Guildford to recruit a shared Net Zero Carbon Programme Manager since February 2024.

“We have been able to increase efficiency and learning in the three dioceses, by sharing communications materials, templates and processes.

The collaboration has helped motivate all those working on net zero in each diocese and has created a sense of increasing momentum towards the ambitious net zero carbon goal.”

Steve Collins Net Zero Carbon Programme Manager, Diocese of Chichester, Guildford and Portsmouth



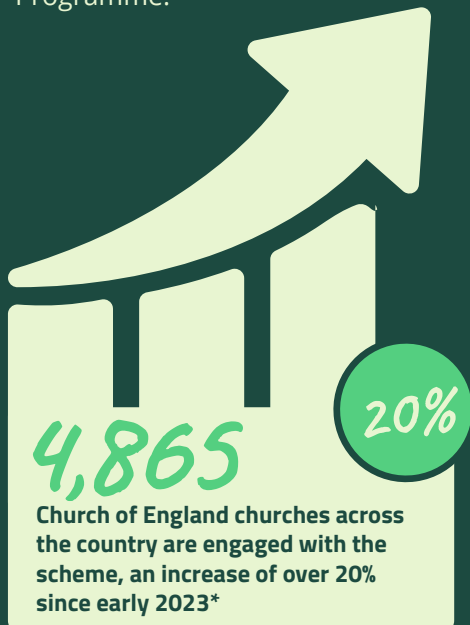
Engaging parishes

Many churches looking to reduce their carbon footprint, appreciate support with where to start. That's where the Eco Church scheme has helped – engaging thousands of churches in environmental projects and helping them begin their eco journey.

The Eco Church scheme is run by the conservation charity A Rocha UK and is supported through a partnership grant from the Net Zero Carbon Programme.

The scheme is a fantastic resource for encouraging churches, cathedrals, and dioceses to embody the fifth mark of mission and often leads to a church then carrying out more work to reach net zero carbon.

Through online engagement with the scheme, churches can be considered for an Eco Church Award at either Bronze, Silver, or Gold level.



2304 CHURCHES ACHIEVED AN ECO CHURCH AWARD, AN INCREASE OF 46% SINCE EARLY 2023.*



1606
bronze award



673
silver award



25
gold award

38 CATHEDRALS ARE ENGAGED IN THE ECO AWARDS



16
bronze award



20
silver award



2
gold award

32 DIOCESAN OFFICES have achieved **24 bronze and 8 silver awards**



A Suffolk church was officially recognised for its trailblazing approach to becoming eco friendly. All Saints' Church, Mendham, is the first within the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich to achieve gold eco status from A Rocha UK.

The Revd Diane Ekins Powell, the local minister, said: "Our Eco church journey has included equipping the church with all LED bulbs, promoting plastic-free July with the local school, hosting a fayre to promote local products, including farms and developing opportunities to use the churchyard for worship, reflection and to improve people's well-being."

The churchyard has become a haven for residents and visitors alike to walk in and watch the birds. Local primary school children have also helped create a bug and hedgehog hotel and put up bird feeders.

Diane, a former head teacher at Ranelagh Primary School, Ipswich, added that the award would enable the church to share its values with others, share what it had learned and that small actions could make a difference.

*Data provided by A Rocha UK for end March 2024 and comparison figures are for the period 2016 to the end of 2022.



Small changes make a big difference in churches



Rev'd Simon Gatenby explains how new insulation at Brunswick Parish Church in Manchester is helping keep people warm and reducing energy costs.

Half of the Church of England's carbon emissions from churches come from just 20% of churches - generally the larger, busier ones, most of which are in use every day.

Around 7% of churches* are already at net zero, largely because they are medieval buildings in rural areas without gas or electricity connections. For the busier churches with the highest emissions, often smaller steps are taken first which can make a significant difference.

Churches have been switching to LED lighting, installing timers on lights and heating people rather than the building with electric or infrared heaters.

*Analysis of the 2020 Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) results showed 7% of churches completing the EFT were already net zero. In the main these churches have electric heating and have switched to a 100% green electricity tariff.





The Net Zero Carbon Programme is supporting churches to reach net zero carbon through:



£2M to deliver fully funded energy audits to **600** of the highest emitting churches with **£3k** match funding available for subsequent carbon reduction projects. The next **1000** churches will be awarded partially funded energy audits.



£2.4M allocated for a Quick Wins grant scheme administered by dioceses to help churches across the country progress with small scale decarbonisation projects such as LED lighting, pew heaters, insulation or updating electric supplies.



£250k allocated as part of The Pilot and Evaluation Fund to support **8-12** pilot and evaluation projects per year, with the aim of supporting the use of new technologies and innovative projects in churches or schools.

“We have insulated the building which now means it’s cheaper to run, which means it’s more accessible for the local community and people are warmer.”

Rev’d Simon Gatenby, Brunswick Parish Church, Manchester





Small changes save urban church thousands of pounds in energy bills

A busy city church has saved thousands of pounds on its energy bills thanks to making a number of small changes to reduce its carbon footprint and help care for God's creation.

Over the last year, Priest in Charge Rev'd Sera Rumble and a team of passionate volunteers at St Denys Church, on the edge of the inner city of Southampton, have made subtle changes to reduce the church's energy consumption and as a result have saved an estimated £5,000 off their annual £20,000 utilities bill.

The changes have included switching halogen lightbulbs for LED lighting; replacing kettles for triple-insulated urns; insulating pipes throughout the building; monitoring electricity use through smart meters, buying heated pads for office chairs and installing automatic timers for lights and electric heaters.

“Churches march on their cups of tea. A really tangible and simple change you can make as a church is to replace kettles and old urns with triple insulating urns – they will save you energy and money, whilst keeping your staple drinks hotter for longer!”

Rev'd Sera Rumble, St Denys Church, Southampton

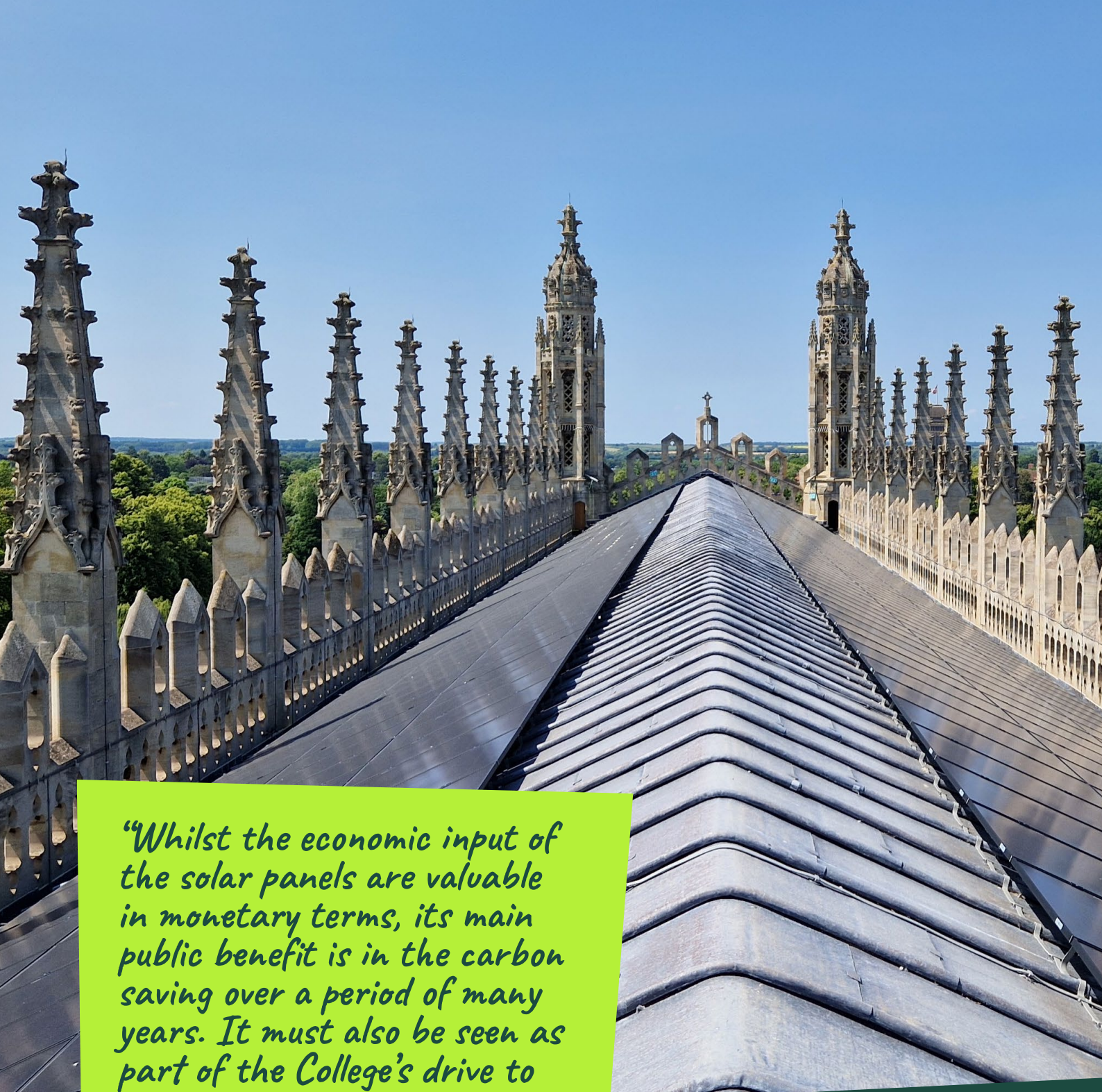
The Benefact Trust grants £1.5 million for churches to achieve net zero goal

A £1.5 million grant that will help a group of churches pay for items such as solar panels and heat pumps was announced in March 2024 by the Benefact Trust.

The grant-giving charity will provide additional support over the next two years to up to 60 'demonstrator' churches who in turn will lead the way in inspiring, informing and encouraging other churches to achieve net zero carbon emissions.

Under the plans, £750,000 of additional funding will be allocated to support a group of churches in 2024 with a further £750,000 pledged for 2025.

The grant from the Trust is in addition to £4.35 million allocated by the Church of England for funding and technical support to help Demonstrator Churches make as much progress as possible towards achieving net zero carbon by the end of 2030.



“Whilst the economic input of the solar panels are valuable in monetary terms, its main public benefit is in the carbon saving over a period of many years. It must also be seen as part of the College’s drive to make its buildings and especially the Chapel more efficient and as a tangible example of how the Chapel can and should be contributing to the moral and ethical wellbeing of this place of learning.”

The Rev’d Dr Stephen Cherry, Dean of the Chapel,
King’s College, Cambridge

The 500 year old chapel at King’s College, Cambridge, has had 438 solar panels installed on its magnificent roof, helping to reduce the College’s carbon emissions by more than 23 tonnes each year, the equivalent of planting 1090 trees.

Cathedrals are setting good examples



Find out about a bee project at Manchester Cathedral, helping to green the city

There are 42 cathedrals in England and each cathedral serves its community as the mother church of its area and the seat of a bishop. They are physical and cultural landmarks, often the most magnificent, complex and ancient buildings in their local area.

Just 2% of the Church of England's carbon emissions comes from its cathedrals, yet through their presence and varied work, cathedrals can reach out to their local and wider communities in many ways – helping to galvanise change and showcase net zero projects for others to learn from and follow.

Cathedrals have been switching to LED lighting, installing timers on lights and heating people rather than the building with electric or infrared heaters.



“The Church of England has pledged to be net zero by 2030 and we are proud to be playing a significant role in not only helping to achieve this vision, but also inspiring other cathedrals to follow suit.”

The Dean of York
The Very Rev'd Dominic Barrington

Most of the carbon emissions from cathedrals come from fossil fuels (mainly gas) which is used to heat the magnificent spaces inside.

Cathedrals could reduce their carbon footprint by up to **75%** if they carried out net zero projects such as switching from gas to heat pumps and installing solar panels.*

* Based on the 2022 QODA report which reviewed the emissions reduction potential for Cathedrals

FACTFILE

- 2% of our carbon emissions come from cathedrals
- Cathedrals emit c8,000 tonnes of CO2 per annum*
- 39 of our 42 cathedrals are grade 1 listed
- Durham Cathedral, Canterbury Cathedral and Westminster Abbey are World Heritage Sites

*From the 2022 QODA Report





Watch an update from York Minster on their net zero projects

What are cathedrals doing to reduce their carbon?

£600k has been allocated from the Net Zero Carbon Programme to carry out technical surveys and concept design reports on most of the cathedrals in England.

The surveys (to RIBA Stage 2 or equivalent) will provide key information to help cathedrals further develop their net zero plans. Given the highly complex nature of the buildings involved, projects which demonstrate how different technologies can be utilised and the challenges overcome will be invaluable in helping the sector move forward effectively.

£1.4M funding has also been allocated to help a number of cathedrals move forward with small and larger scale net zero projects through the Cathedral Quick Wins and Cathedral Demonstrator Project Grant Funds. Successful projects will start to be selected in autumn 2024.

Almost **half our cathedrals** are doing work to understand their energy requirements and net zero options and almost **three quarters** have now converted the majority of their lighting to LEDs.

Portsmouth Cathedral has reduced its carbon footprint by 45% since 2013. Currently the footprint includes gas and electricity use at its two main buildings, the Cathedral and Cathedral House, that

together make up the bulk of energy consumption. Their initial target of a 20% weather-adjusted energy carbon emissions reduction by 2020, against a 2013 base year, was achieved a year early in 2019, that reduction is now close to 40%.

Plans to install solar panels on the roof of **York Minster** were approved last year – helping to safeguard the Minster for generations to come through its commitment to sustainability, biodiversity and wellbeing.

The 199 panels will be placed on the roof of the South Quire Aisle, originally dating from 1361, and will enable the Minster to generate 75,000 kilowatt-hours of power annually.

As well as contributing to meeting daytime power demand, surplus power generated by the panels will be stored in underground batteries and used to power the cathedral's evening services and events.

There will also be a panel installed within the Minster itself displaying its energy production and carbon savings as it seeks to promote the importance of decarbonisation to the thousands of local, national and international visitors that appreciate York Minster.

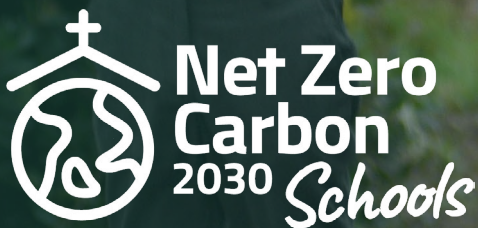
“You can break it down into small bits and then tackle each part bit by bit and over time, having set those targets, you can see you are starting to achieve them, and success breeds success, as the saying goes.”

Richard Abraham, Chief Operating Officer at Portsmouth Cathedral





Supporting progress in Schools



Find out what schools in Gloucester and Accrington are doing to lower their carbon emissions

Schools have an important role to play in all aspects of sustainability including reducing our environmental footprint. They equate to almost 50% of the Church of England's total carbon footprint.

The Government is responsible for the funding of building work and maintenance in state schools, but the Church of England has an important role to play in helping Church of England schools to understand their decarbonisation journey and to find out how to access funding.

Tackling climate change witnesses to our communities that we are people who care about climate justice and that we hear young people and their concerns.

Free resources, webinars, grants and support have been made available to Diocesan Boards of Education to help schools with decarbonisation plans and their applications for public sector funding.





“When you start breaking things down, things are achievable.”

Wendy Litherland, Assistant Headteacher at St Christopher's Church of England High School, Accrington

In the last year the Net Zero Carbon Programme has:

- Committed **£144k** of grant funding to support the 10% Governor Liability for capital expenditure in Voluntary Aided schools which have been awarded Public Sector-Decarbonisation Scheme 3 (PSDS) grants in 2024 – this has unlocked over **£1.3m** public sector funding.
- Established a new **National Framework to support school decarbonisation** which is on target to enable 30-40 demonstrator schemes by December 2025. The Framework is providing an evidence led approach to strategically target support for Diocesan Boards of Education to leverage public sector funding for sites most likely to be eligible.

Holistic Data Collection

- Data identifying 600 priority sites provided
- Ranked 2400 schools in scope to identify the least energy efficient to focus bidding
- Schools with oil boilers needing replacement identified.
- **2,181 schools and academies in scope - equates to 5,019 buildings**

200 Heat Decarbonisation Plans (HDPs)

- **89 HDPs commissioned on priority sites**
- **18 bids of over £2.6m Low Carbon Skills Funding for HDPs submitted across 20 Dioceses and 2 Church of England Multi Academy Trusts**
- Over 600 HDPs collated to date on sites within scope

Funding secured

- **14 Voluntary Aided schools supported with £144,500 of funding to enable £4,177,788 of decarbonisation projects in six dioceses**
- Awarded £2,084,272 of PSDS funding to support 14 VA schools in 6 Dioceses

Technical analysis on HDPs

- 4 Regional Consultants appointed to support DBEs
- Next PSDS round expected in autumn 2024

£2M from the Net Zero Programme will:

- Fund analysis to help understand how to fully decarbonise selected demonstrator school sites.
- Help selected schools pay for heat decarbonisation plans.
- Support schools with public sector bid writing.
- Fund the 10 per cent capital liability support which Voluntary Aided schools need to find.
- Provide data analysis to help understand the sustainability landscape of our diocesan family of schools.
- Give targeted support to improve knowledge of the school estate and what is required to achieve net zero ambitions quickly.
- Provide extra capacity to maximise funding opportunities for Diocesan Boards of Education to enable more decarbonisation schemes.
- Help schools explore sustainable initiatives and innovation to understand how to work at pace and at scale.
- Provide resources, guidance and webinars to encourage schools at every stage on the net zero journey.
- Embed creation care into sustainable decision making, culture and vision to ensure our school buildings continue to provide a learning environment that facilitates the flourishing of the whole school community.



Listen to primary school pupils in Gloucester talk about climate change



19 Church of England schools

from 8 dioceses have applied for funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS), with 14 schemes approved

By 2030, our ambition is that all our schools will be consuming much less energy and emitting less carbon than they do now.

And that will support the flourishing of the whole school community, and actively demonstrate creation care.





“We started off our net zero journey by using the Energy and Self Audit Tool and have found it really helpful. It makes you look at your building, that you know really well, but really question - what have we got? What do we need? What could we do differently? It helps to really prioritise your next steps.”

Julia Matson

Headteacher at Barnwood Church of England Primary School,
Gloucester

Lowering the carbon footprint of clergy homes




The energy use of housing is an area of significant concern when it comes to carbon emissions. The Energy Savings Trust estimate that 30% of UK household carbon emissions come from heating our homes and providing hot water. Our clergy housing contributes 18% of total Church carbon emissions.

There are **9,600** clergy homes across the Church of England estate, with a further **1,500** homes for retired clergy. The Net Zero Carbon Programme aims to provide support to dioceses and the Pensions Board to help transform these homes into low carbon buildings.

In 2023 and early 2024 the Net Zero Programme housing workstream has gained significant momentum. Working with four dioceses and the Pensions Board, detailed analysis of the clergy and retired housing stock has been completed.

This has informed a churchwide approach to moving housing towards net zero carbon that is practical, equitable, built into business as usual, suitable for building heritage and affordable.





“We consider each property as a home, not just an asset, bringing the occupant on the net zero journey with us. We want to ensure clergy homes are warmer, more comfortable and more affordable to run – ensuring our investment is not only in caring for our planet but also taking into account the wellbeing of our clergy and their families.”

Laura Donald

RIBA, Net Zero Implementation Manager,
The Church of England Pensions Board



Work has been completed on the Diocese of Carlisle’s first Net Carbon Zero vicarage.

The project involved carrying out work to increase insulation in the roof space and provide new external doors to improve energy efficiency. A new air source heat pump and pressurised water heating system have been installed along with solar panels and a battery storage system which provides two thirds of the electricity supply.

Take a tour around an eco vicarage in Carlisle



42

dioceses engaged in the process of moving housing portfolios towards net zero



18

dioceses working to collaborate with others to aid their net zero journey



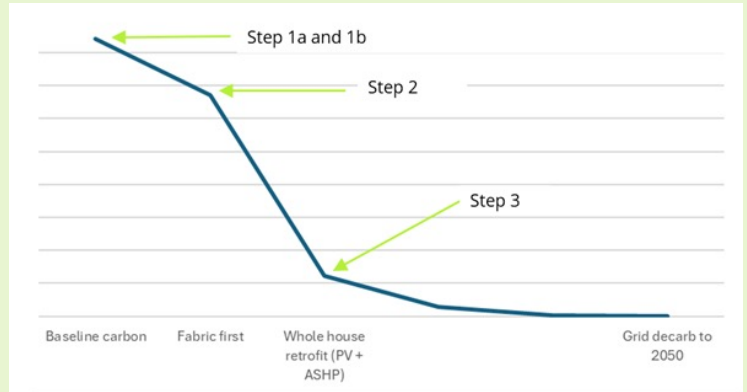
26%

of dioceses have completed their own pilot projects already



£2.3M

committed Programme funding for Housing Demonstrators in train



Likely carbon impact of the proposed steps

The strategy comprises 4 key steps:



Step 1a Understanding your portfolio.



Step 1b Quick wins.



Step 2 Build fabric energy efficiency work into business as usual, as is suitable for the building's heritage and avoiding unintended consequences.



Step 3 Decarbonisation of heating and install self-generation at vacancy, prior to heating system failure, or as funds permit and is affordable to run.

The strategy should give all housing stakeholders confidence to move their net zero housing strategies forward and encourage internal investment.



“It’s great. The house is so warm in comparison to the former vicarage. We open windows now for ventilation rather than the draught coming through the floorboards and the walls, and the solar panels are making a huge difference to our utility bills as well as helping the environment.”

The Rev’d Canon Angela Whittaker
Priest-in-Charge of Natland, Old Hutton & New Hutton

GIVE TO GO GREEN

Bringing communities

together!



Churches taking part in a new fundraising match-making scheme have said it's helping them engage with their wider community over environmental issues and concerns.

16 churches in the Diocese of Exeter and 11 churches in the Diocese of Leeds have taken part in a first pilot round of Give To Go Green: a national scheme from the Net Zero Programme which doubles any funding (up to £10k) raised on projects to support decarbonisation projects.

£1.5m from the Net Zero Programme has been allocated to this pilot match-funding campaign.

The Give to Go Green campaign was initially launched as a pilot in Leeds and Exeter but was recently extended to six other dioceses: St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Chester, Derby, Sodor and Man, Southwark, and Winchester; as well as Leeds and Exeter.

Round 1 of the pilot Give To Go Green ended in March 2024.
27 churches fundraising – 16 in Exeter, 11 in Leeds.

£163,550 raised in total – 73% of churches raised more than their target amount, some by 200%

£142,341 awarded in match funding

9 churches were new to digital giving entirely.

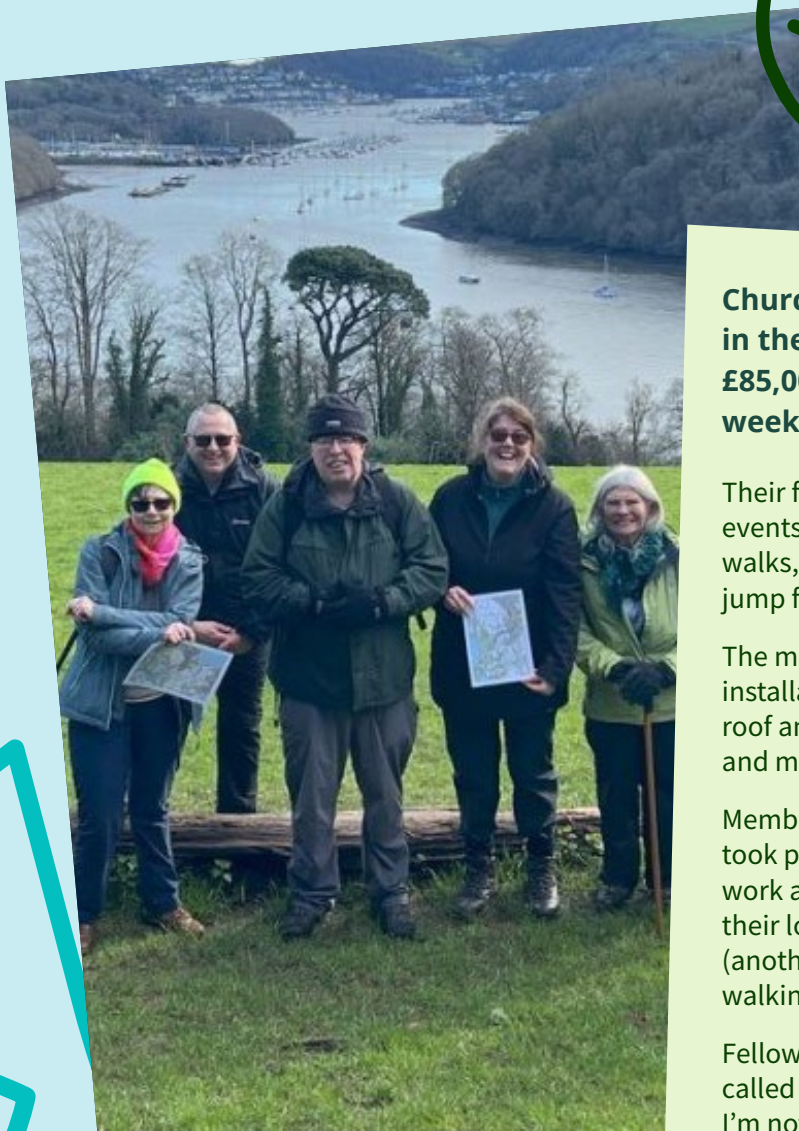
Funding will help support 12 electric heating projects, 7 LED lighting projects, 3 solar panel projects, 6 roof/gutter repair projects



“People are wanting to support it. I was walking along the road and somebody who doesn’t come to church said ‘How is your Give 2 Go Green scheme? I thought it was a great idea.’ It’s caught people’s imagination, not only in the church but in the community. This is something that will help us to reach out, because the environment and climate change are issues that everybody is concerned about.”

The Rev’d Jennie Appleby

St Mary and All Saints Church, Plymstock, Devon



Churches in the Diocese of Exeter taking part in the Give To Go Green pilot scheme raised £85,000 towards their £97,000 goal in just four weeks.

Their fundraising campaigns included community events such as film nights, games nights, sponsored walks, Lent Lunches and even a teddy bear parachute jump from a church tower.

The money raised will pay for work such as the installation of LED lights, solar panels, infrared heating, roof and window repairs, insulation, secondary glazing and more.

Members of St Mary and All Saints Church, in Plymstock took part in a sponsored walk to raise money for eco work at their church. One of the walkers, Tony, told their local radio channel: “I’ve turned 80 and Richard (another walker) is 81. We’re a bit stiff when we start walking and very stiff when we finish!”

Fellow walker Richard added: “Our walking project is called Curate, Codgers and Co! It’s fired the imagination. I’m not sure it’s raised a huge amount but it’s a nice thing to do.”

Looking ahead

Our plans for the next year and beyond

Phase 1 (2022-2025)

£30m

- Improving our understanding of our carbon footprint across our 32,000 in-scope buildings
- Building strategic capacity across the dioceses with knowledge and skills to deliver decarbonisation
- Piloting the most effective ways to support dioceses to deliver practical decarbonisation projects 'on the ground'
- Evaluate pilots to enable scale up and delivery in phase 2
- Undertaking work on the approach for carbon offsetting (2024)
- Make a recommendation on whether to bring church land and building projects into scope (2025)

Phase 2 (2025-2028)

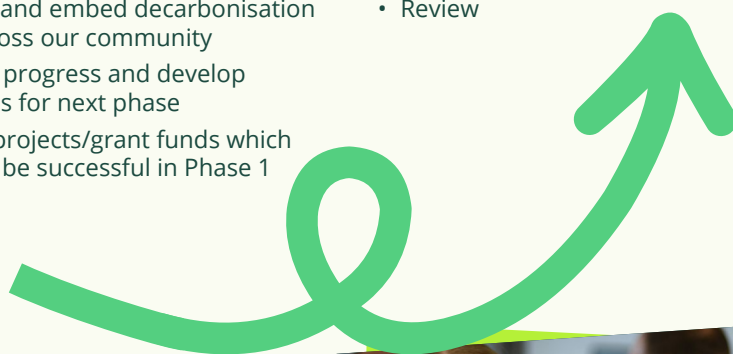
£100m tbc

- Build on phase 1 pilots to transition to decarbonisation delivery at scale
- Share learning
- Develop and embed decarbonisation skills across our community
- Evaluate progress and develop measures for next phase
- Expand projects/grant funds which prove to be successful in Phase 1

Phase 3 (2029 – 2031)

£60m tbc

- Continue delivery of decarbonisation projects established in phase 2
- Evaluate progress and share learning
- Review



Champion net zero churches to help others through new multi-million pound project

More than **100** of the country's highest carbon emitting churches will be given money to fund net zero projects which others can learn from as part of a new project.

The **£5.02M** Demonstrator Churches project from the Church of England's Net Zero Programme aims to help **114 churches** in 2024 and 2025 pay for items such as solar panels, heat pumps, insulation, secondary glazing, LED lighting and infrared heating systems.





“Yes it’s a drop in the ocean, but the ocean is made up of many drops, and whatever we can do to impact and bring about change, we will do.”

The Rev’d Simon Gatenby
Brunswick Parish Church, Manchester

“My prayer is that through this transformative Demonstrators Churches project the Church of England will demonstrate leadership as we face the challenges of climate change. By taking practical action we show God’s love for creation as well as ensuring that our buildings are fit for our worshipping life and service to local communities.”

The Rt Rev’d Graham Usher
Bishop of Norwich Church of England Lead Bishop for the Environment



St Peter Mancroft in Norwich is one of the first Demonstrator Churches

Meet the Net Zero Programme Director

Q&A with Julian Atkins



Can you describe your role as director of the Net Zero Programme?

My role is to lead the Church of England's national Net Zero Carbon Programme, to own the vision for the programme as a whole and inspire our fantastic net zero team working at a national level as well as colleagues working across the dioceses and in parishes to dare to achieve more than they think possible. I joined the team from a long public sector career in environment conservation and sustainable development because of the Church of England's long-term commitment to making real reductions in its carbon footprint and because it was an opportunity to align my Christian faith with my professional career in a profoundly positive way. It's a privilege to lead such a professional and dedicated group of people.

The target of 2030 is an ambitious one. Realistically, will we get to net zero by 2030? Shouldn't we shift out the target like other companies/governments have done?

Our 2030 ambition to be net zero is deliberately ambitious and will definitely stretch us as a Church, but General Synod set that date because of the urgency of the climate crisis we find ourselves in. Without it I am convinced we would not have made the progress we have already, and we would not have had the resources which are now at our disposal. Our key aim in this development phase has been to get going and to begin to build momentum and it's important that we hold our nerve and see just how far we can go having only just started. As a church and as an organisation we are at the forefront of net zero action in terms of how you implement, fund and coordinate a programme of practical net zero projects - that's an exciting place to be and we want to share what we learn with others.

And it's important to understand that we are on a journey - 2030 is the ambition of this Programme but it is just one of the waypoints along a longer road towards meeting the UK's national target of

being net zero by 2050. What comes after still needs to be decided but we need to ensure we are able to respond to any changes in government policy following the recent election.

Isn't this a distraction from mission?

Our work is absolutely missional as it bears witness to our concern and care for God's creation. It is a key expression of our commitment as Christians to the Fifth Mark of Mission. And we know already the impact that climate change is having on those least well placed to adapt to it both at home and around the world. Doing our bit to reduce our impact upon this planet as a church is part of us responding through our own actions to the needs of people around the world, and at home, while also contributing towards the transition to more just social structures which respect the planet and the natural processes which sustain us - the earth is the Lord's and everything in it.

The Church of England's contribution to climate change is small compared to the footprint of the UK, and then globally. We're only a small part of the problem, so wouldn't £190M be better spent elsewhere in the Church?

We can't ignore climate change and the longer we don't act with seriousness, the more damaging the impacts are on the natural processes which sustain life. We have to start somewhere - climate change is real and it is happening. But small changes, when aggregated up do make a difference and they can create ripple effects when we all do them together. The buildings in our care are some of the most important, historically significant and culturally



sensitive buildings in our nation so if we can show what is possible in terms of reducing our carbon emissions then we can be a beacon for communities and others to follow.

The cost of transition is too high, why don't we wait for the cost of technology to drop?

We are only just starting our work and the more net zero projects that can be progressed the more that generates competition across the technologies available. And while the cost of technology may fall, every year we delay action is another year where the impacts from greenhouse gases are baked into the earth's response to our behaviour. In this phase of the programme we are testing approaches and we want to learn what is cost effective and what isn't. Not every church needs to invest in large scale or more costly net zero solutions and it's important that net zero proposals are proportionate to the size and usage of the building so a key part of our work is to share what gets learnt from each of the projects and to apply our funding wisely so that it has the best impact.

What should a small church do who can't afford a heat pump?

Two great starting points are to register with Eco Church and begin the journey towards achieving the bronze award and then to make sure you complete a return using the Energy Footprint Tool. Our practical Path to Net Zero provides a handy checklist for thinking about how to approach your building's energy consumption and there is a wealth

of information and advice available via our website. Often for smaller churches which are perhaps just only open once or twice a week you don't need to spend huge sums of money. Think about the simple interventions and changes you can make such as changing to LED light bulbs, or how and when you switch the heating and the lights on, as these can achieve quick results. For those that are a little bit further down the road, building good links with your diocesan environment, net zero and church building support officers will help to open up possibilities about how to scope your project and what sources of funding are available.

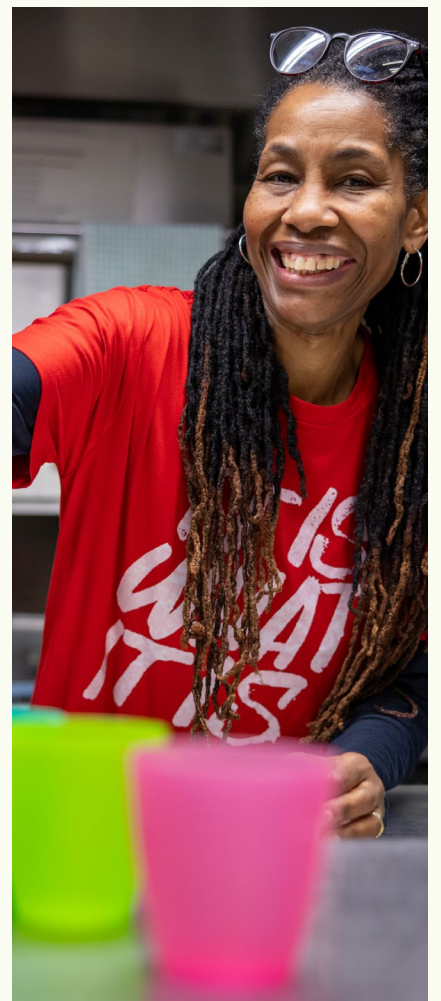
And finally, what is your one prayer for the Net Zero Programme as we work together over the coming years to reach our ambition?

My prayer would be three-fold. Firstly, that people realise that all of us making a few small changes can collectively make a big difference which in turn galvanises more ambitious actions. Secondly, that the contribution our work is making to the Church's core priorities around growing discipleship, ensuring every person in England has access to an enriching and compelling community of faith, and ensuring the Church remains relevant to young people, helps to build the momentum which is needed to help the planet heal but also to safeguard our brothers and sisters around the globe. And finally, that many years hence, the work we are doing now, will be regarded with appreciation and thanks by those who will come after us.



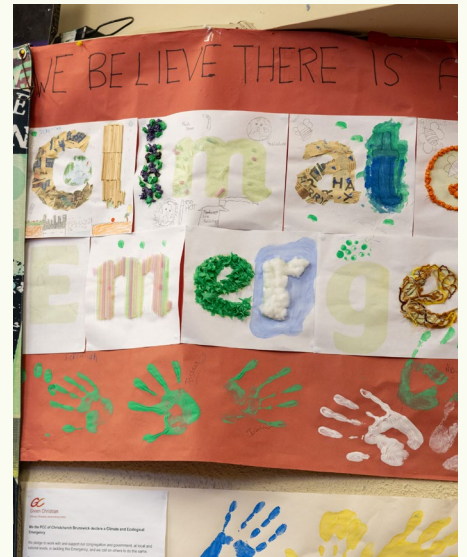
The year so far

In pictures



By **2030**, our hope is that the buildings of the Church of England will be bright and welcoming, consuming much **less energy** and **emitting less carbon** than they do now.

And that will be good for the people who use the buildings, and **good for the whole of creation.**



Working together to care for God's creation



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www.churchofengland.org/resources/net-zero-carbon-routemap

This document has been prepared by the Church of England Net Zero Programme team.
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 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND