



Navigating the path to a cleaner, greener, and fairer future in a time of political turmoil and global unrest

Julian Atkins
Net Zero Programme Director

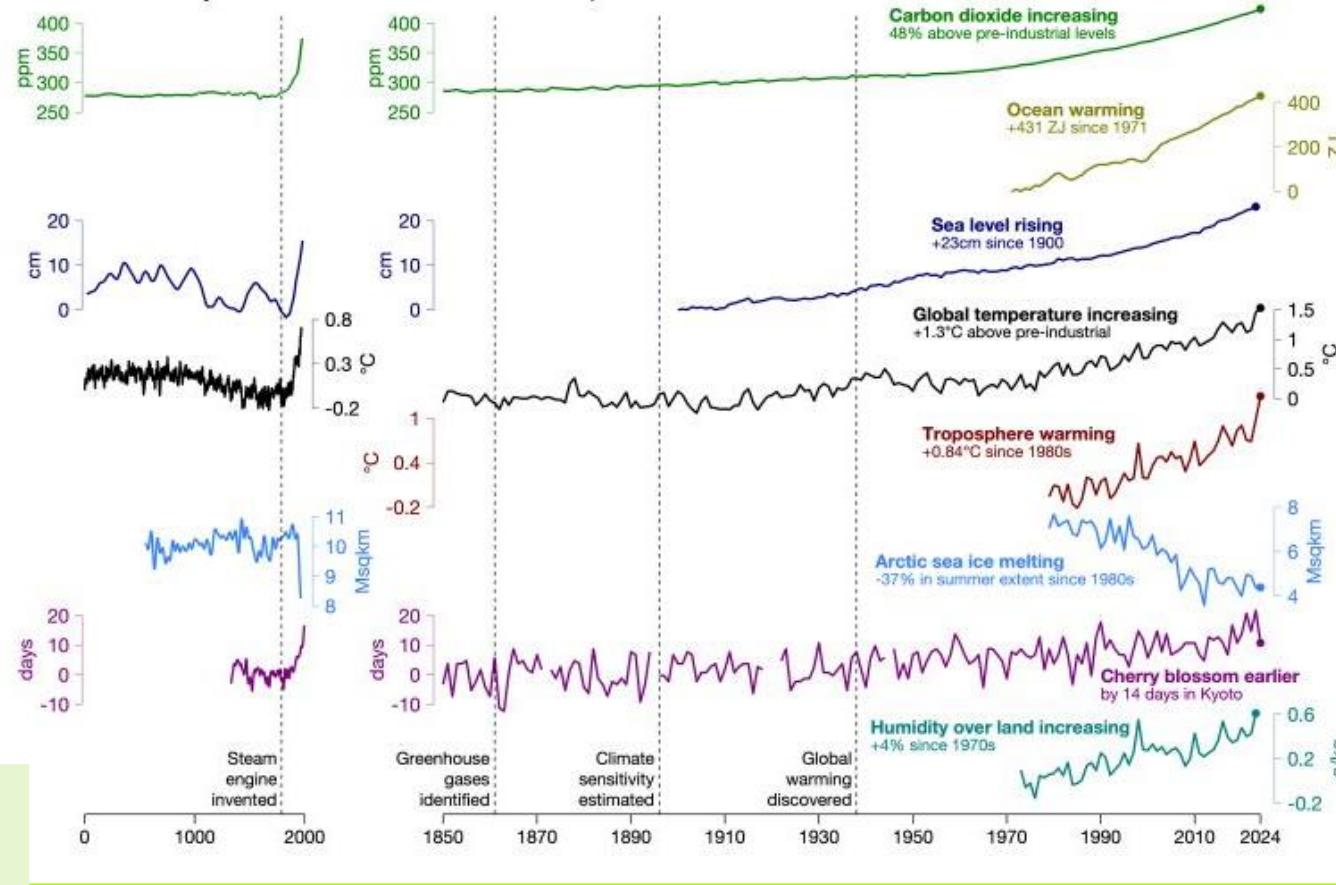
The Science

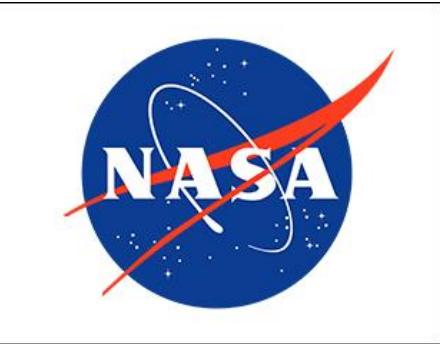


Changes emerging across the climate system

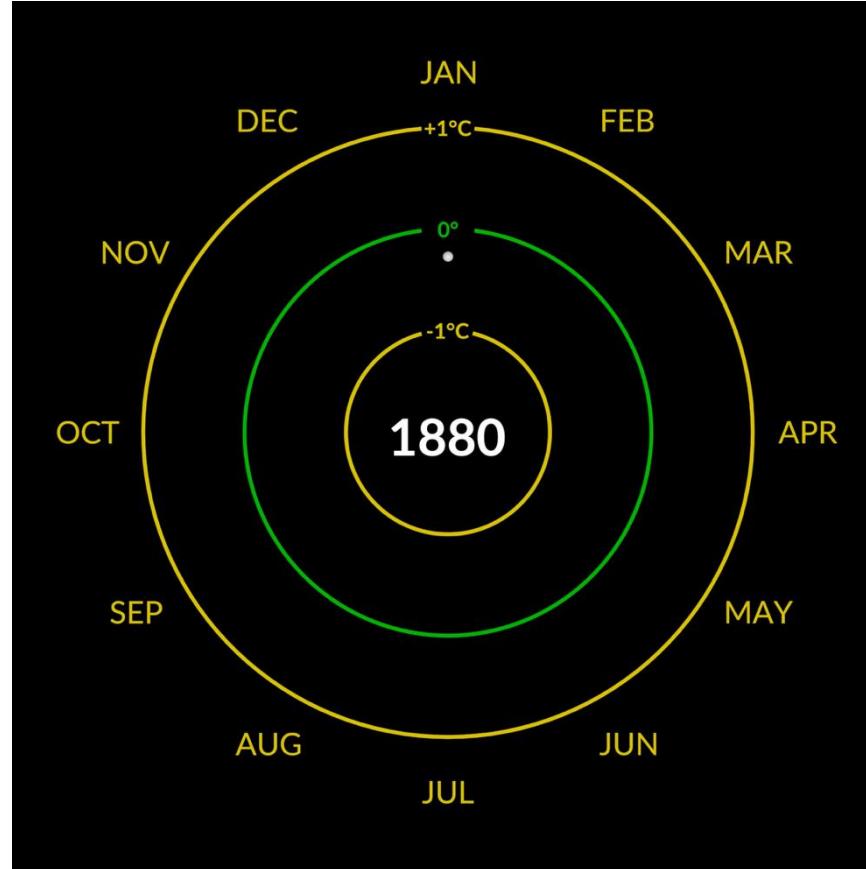
Last 2000 years

Instrumental period



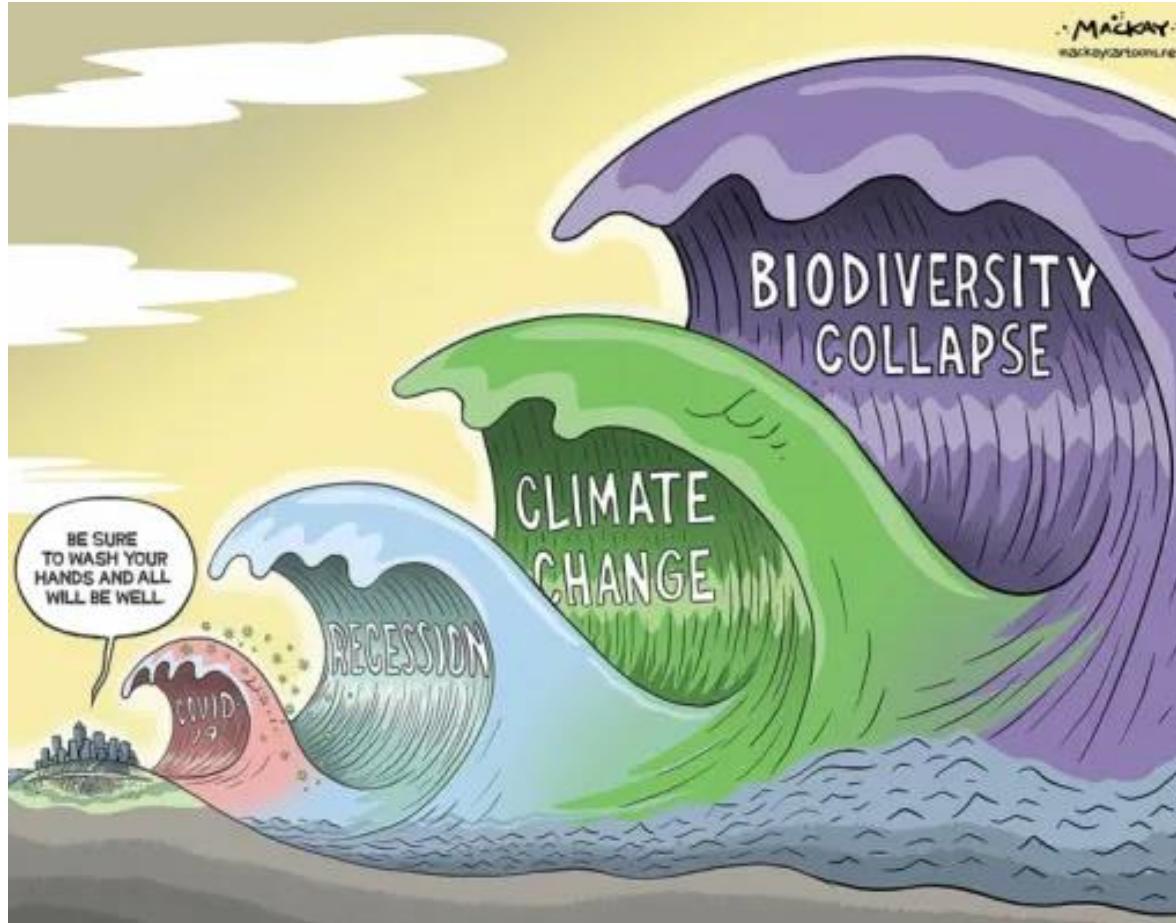


NASA Climate Spiral 1880 - Nov 2025



Shifting Political Sands





Shifting Political Support for Climate Action and Net Zero

Policy Area	Labour 	Conservatives 	REFORM UK 
Net Zero Target	Net zero by 2050; 95% clean power by 2030	Net zero by 2050 (pragmatic approach)	Scrap net zero legislation; referendum on 2050 target
Energy Strategy	No new North Sea oil & gas licences; Great British Energy; Warm Homes Plan	Annual North Sea oil & gas licensing; treble offshore wind; CCS clusters	Fast-track North Sea oil & gas; shale gas testing; nuclear & clean coal
Green Investment	National Wealth Fund for clean energy infrastructure	£1.1bn for green industries; CCS investment	Remove renewable subsidies; introduce renewable taxes



Policy Area	Labour 	Conservatives 	REFORM UK 
Transport	EV rollout continues; pragmatic adjustments for niche brands	Petrol/diesel ban delayed to 2035; heat pump mandate pushed back	No EV mandates; no petrol/diesel ban
Consumer Costs	Focus on bills via efficiency & renewables	Cut green levies; no meat/frequent flyer taxes	Cut green levies; reduce bills by ~30%
Nuclear	Support expansion & licensing reform	Fast-track small modular reactors & new gigawatt station	Support nuclear expansion
Global	Active COP leadership; align with EU energy market	Reform Climate Change Committee to weigh costs	Councils scrapping net zero declarations & EV projects



Who's said What?

Kemi Badenoch: UK's 2050 net zero target is impossible to meet “without a serious drop in our living standards or by bankrupting us”.

Nigel Farage: UK's Net Zero 2050 target is “complete and utter madness”.

Donald Trump: Climate change is a hoax. “... it's the greatest con-job ever perpetrated on the world.”

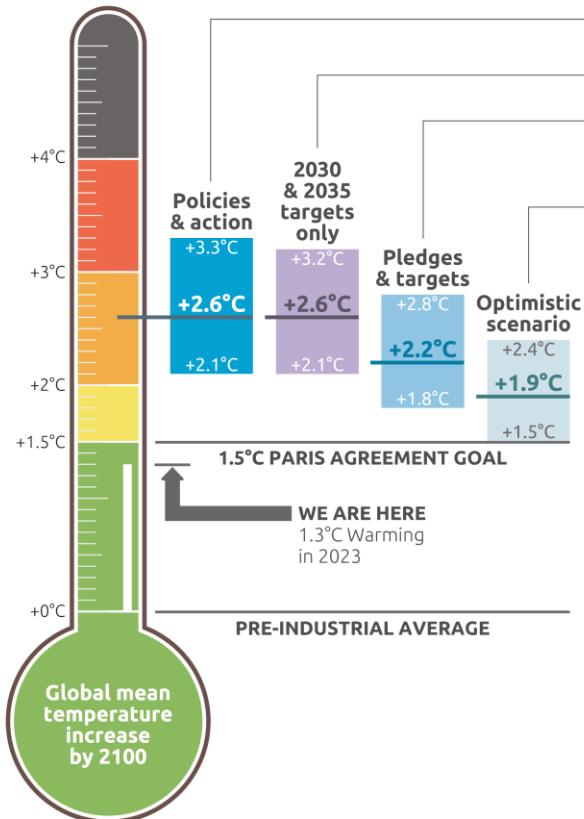
More recently there have also been calls for green spending to be diverted to spending on defence in the wake of global uncertainty.

Zack Polanski: Has said the climate movement is losing the war on net zero. The focus should be on the cost of inaction rather than the cost of climate policies.



- ▼ **False:** ‘Britons will be clobbered with **£9tn** bill for...net-zero’
- ▼ **Misleading:** ‘Labour...admit...their [climate] plans will cost **hundreds of billions**’
- ▼ **False:** ‘Labour’s 2030 target would need an extra **£116bn**’
- ▼ **False:** ‘Ditching net-zero could save the public sector over **£30bn**’
- ▼ **False:** ‘The UK cost of net-zero [is]...**£2tn** or more’
- ▼ **False:** ‘Decarbonising Britain’s entire energy system will cost **£2.8-3tn**’
- ▼ **False:** ‘The 2030 [petrol car] ban...will cost...**£1,000** per household’
- ▼ **True:** ‘The UK spent a staggering **£265bn** on energy in 2022’





Policies & action
Real world action based on current policies †

2030 & 2035 targets only
Based on submitted NDC targets* †

Pledges & targets
Based on 2030 & 2035 NDC targets* and submitted and binding long-term targets †

Optimistic scenario
Best case scenario and assumes full implementation of all **announced** targets including net zero targets, LTSs and NDCs*

† Temperatures continue to rise after 2100

* If either 2030 or 2035 NDC targets are weaker than projected emissions levels under policies & action, we use levels from Policies & action

CAT warming projections
Global temperature increase by 2100

November 2025 Update



Why it matters





California Wildfires,
2024

(Creator: Ethan Swope, Credit: AP)



Long term impacts
on nature

(Creator: vladsilver,
Credit: Getty Images/iStockphoto)



Philippines, 2025

(Creator: John Dimain, Credit: AFP)





Credit: Alamy

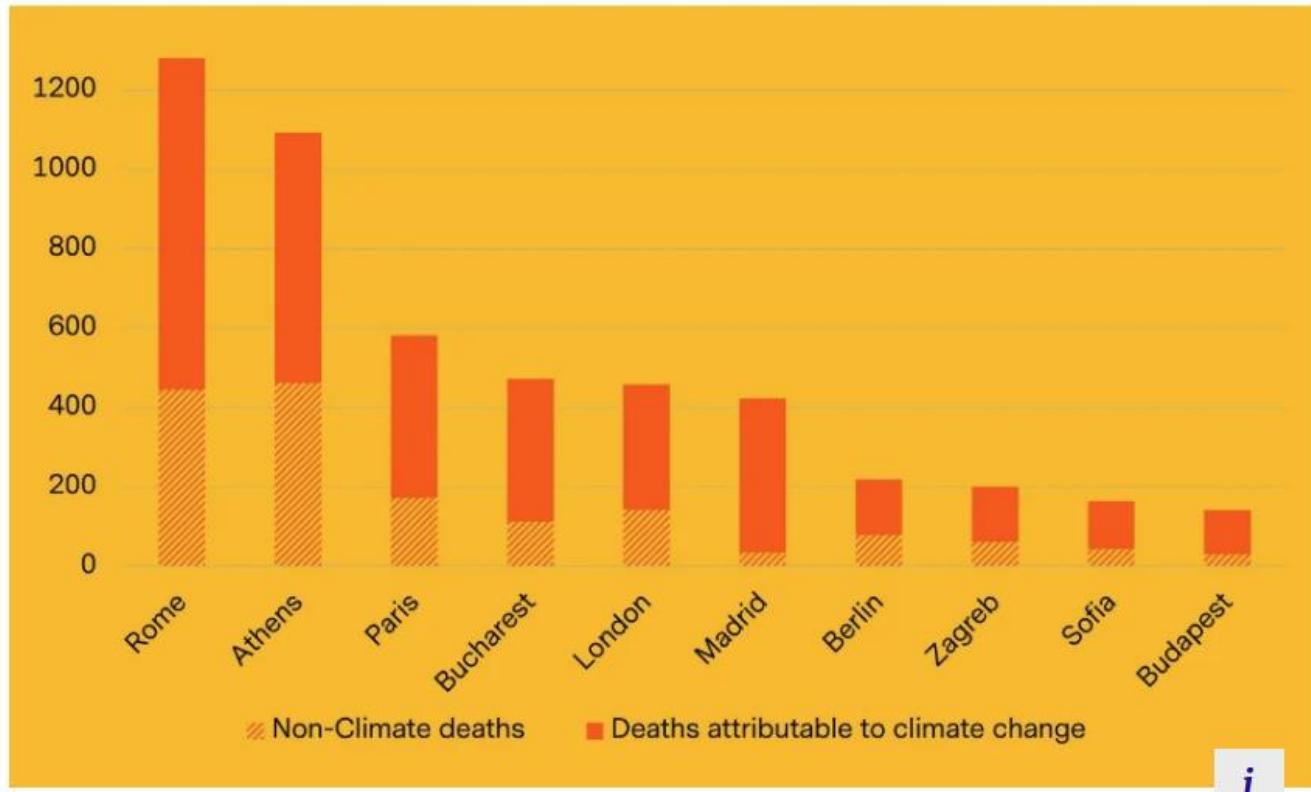
St. Thomas Anglican Church in Lacovia, Jamaica



Estimated excess heat-related deaths in European capital cities in Summer 2025



IMPERIAL
Grantham Institute



Summer heat deaths in 854 European cities, in 2025, more than tripled due to climate change:

16,469 additional deaths estimated

i





417

EVENTS



\$3.1 trillion

TOTAL COST



17,092

DEATHS

U.S. 2025 Billion-Dollar Weather & Climate Disasters



Drought



Flooding



Hail



Hurricane



Severe weather



Tornado Outbreak



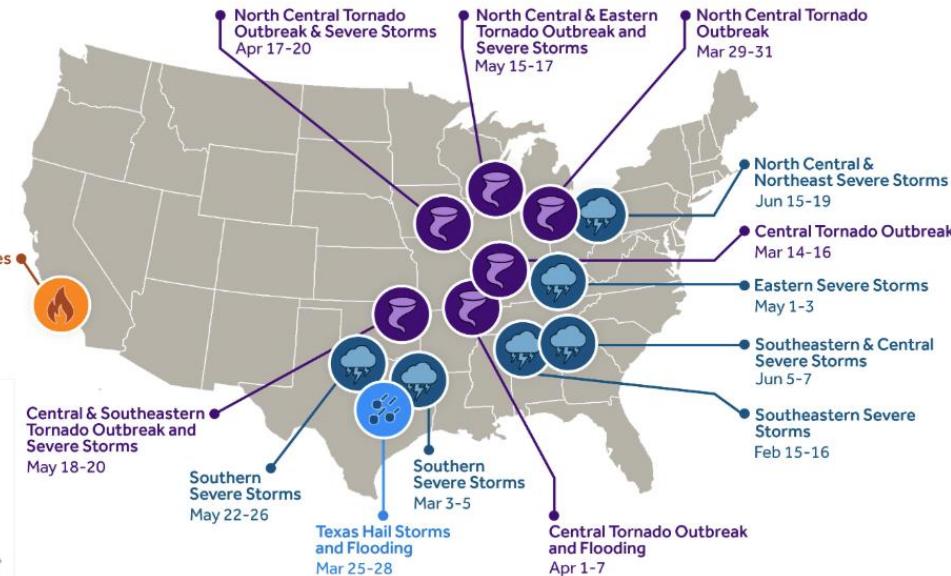
Wildfire



Winter Storm

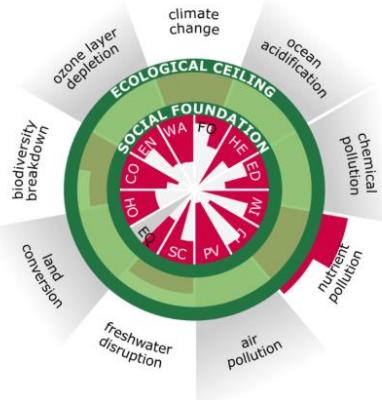


This map shows the approximate location for each of the 14 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disasters that impacted the United States from January–June of 2025.

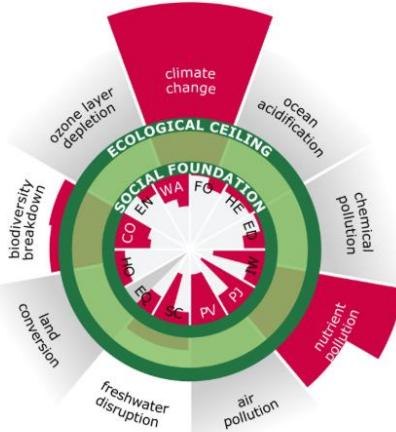




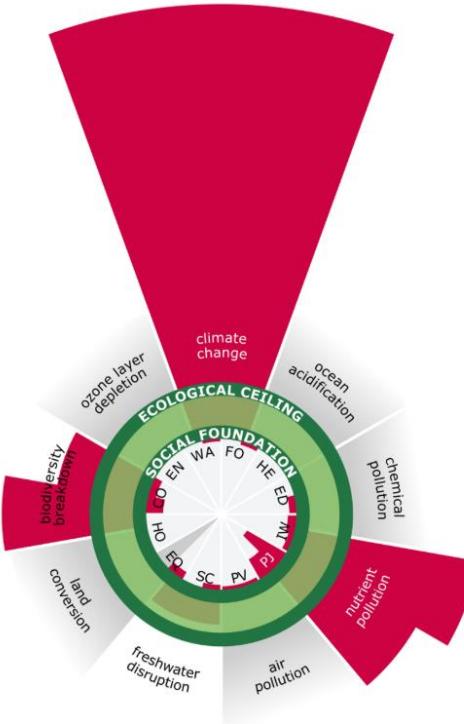
Doughnut 3.0



poorest 40% of countries



middle 40% of countries



richest 20% of countries

FO	food	WA	water	EQ	equality
HE	health	EN	energy	SC	social cohesion
ED	education	CO	connectivity	PV	political voice
IW	income & work	HO	housing	PJ	peace & justice





The earth is the Lord's,
and everything in it,
the world, and
all who live
in it.

Psalm 24:1

RustyLewis.net
#GenerosityMatters



The Church of England's Response



The First Commandment:

Hear, O Israel the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength

The Second Commandment:

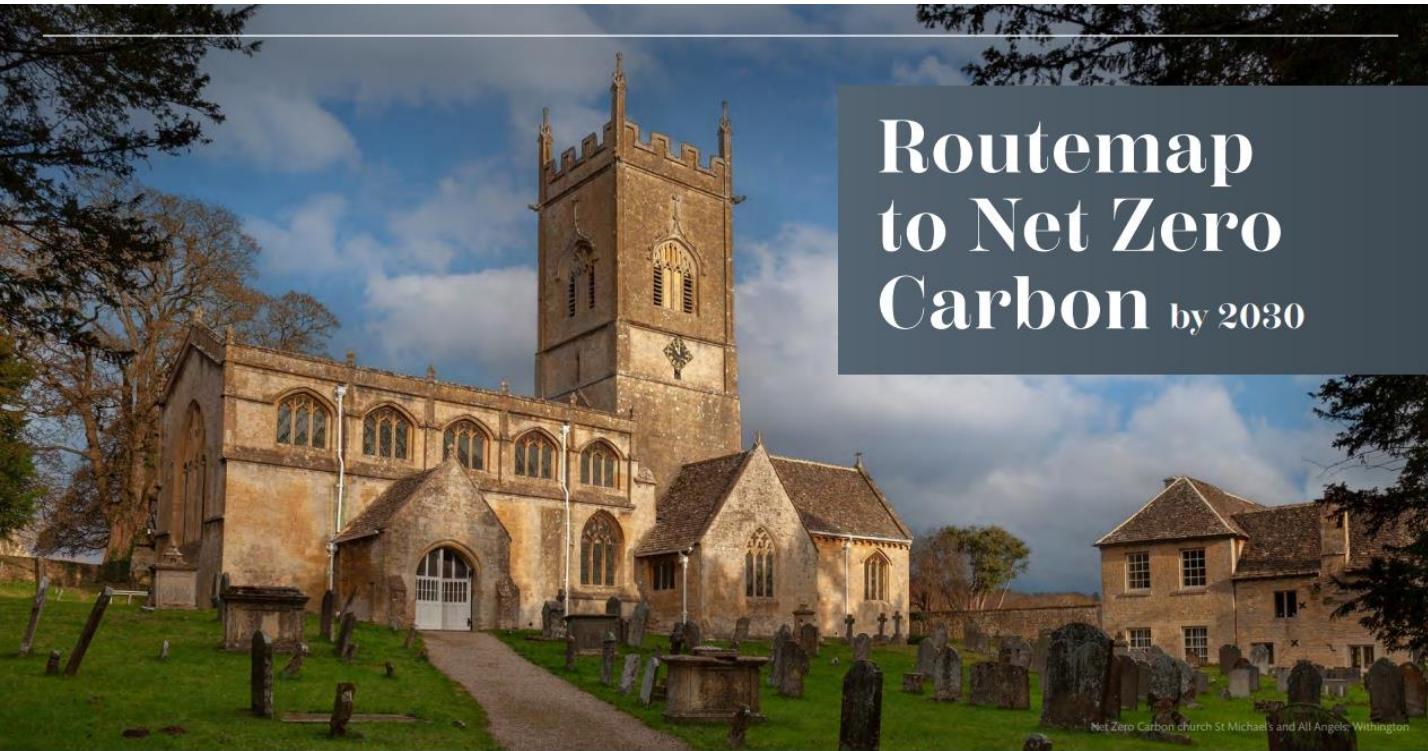
Love your neighbour as yourself



Our 5 Marks of Mission:

1. TELL - To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. TEACH - To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. TEND - To respond to human need by loving service
4. TRANSFORM - To seek to transform unjust structures of society,
to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue
peace and reconciliation
5. TREASURE - **To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and
sustain and renew the life of the earth**





Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030

⊕ THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND | Environment Programme

Endorsed by General Synod July 2022

[Net zero carbon routemap | The Church of England](#)



Church Commissioners' funding: circa £190m for Net Zero 2023-34

- One-off investment in the **transition towards a lower carbon future**
- Demonstrating **leadership**
- Sharing **learning**, and working in **partnership**
- **Integrating Net Zero** ambition with the wider mission of the church
- raising **additional funding**

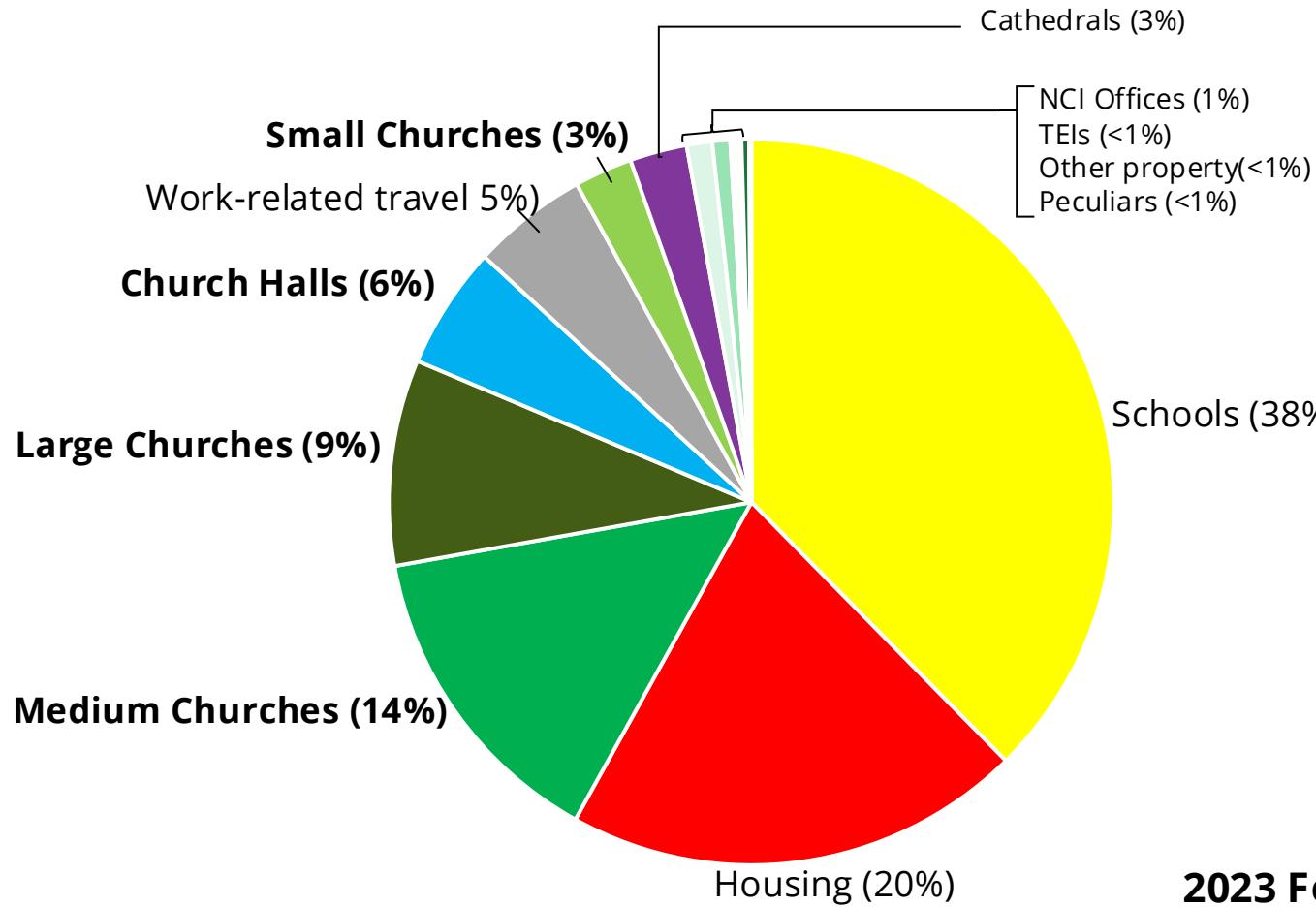


Headline figures

- The Church of England's carbon footprint is estimated at **411-415,000** tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e)
- **32,200** buildings in scope
- Half are churches

Building Type	Number of Buildings	Total Estimated Net CO ₂ e (2020)	Total Estimated Net CO ₂ e (2021)
Churches	15,500	118,000	110,000
Church Halls	3,000	19,000	16,000
Schools	4,000	195,000	196,000
Housing	9,500	69,000	72,000
NCIs	3	2,500	2,800
Cathedrals	42	9,500	8,700
TEIs	22	N/A	1,100
Royal Peculiars	8	700	340
Diocesan Offices	75	3,000	1,900
Other diocesan property	84	600	600
Work-related travel	n/a	Not collected	1,100
Total	32,234	415,000	411,000



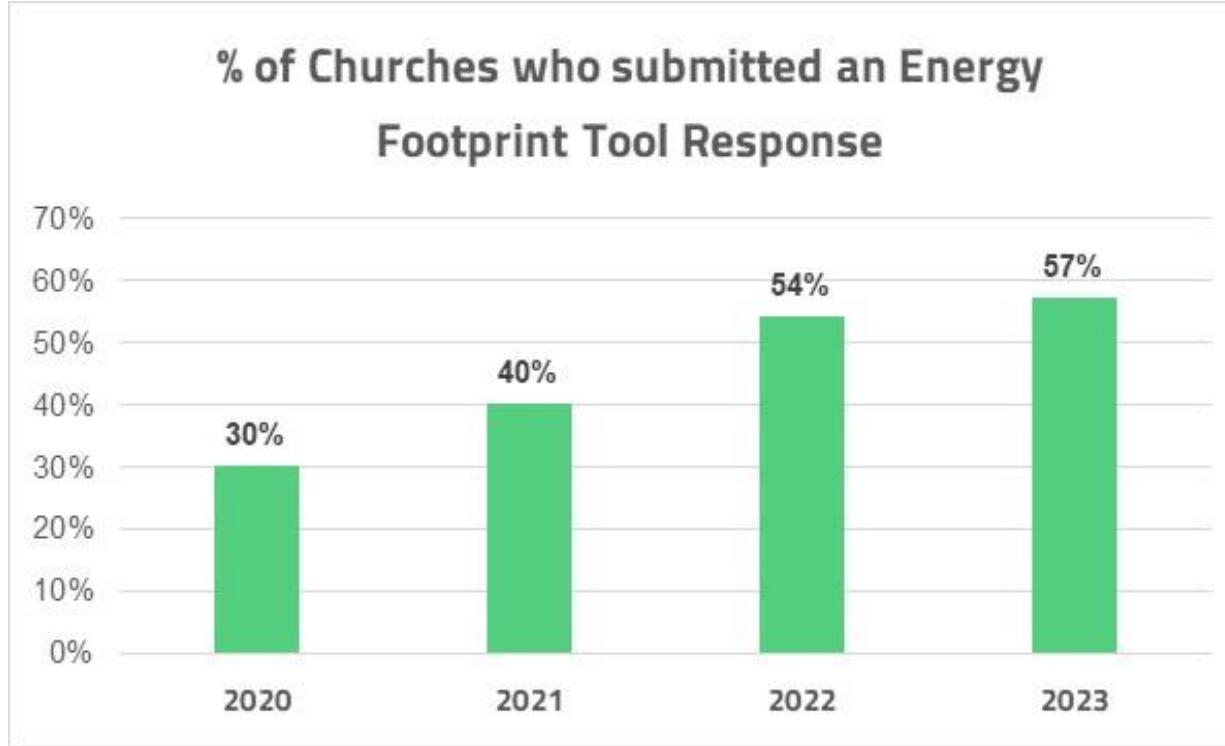


Churches:
Small = $<250\text{m}^2$
Medium = $250\text{--}650\text{m}^2$
Large = $>650\text{m}^2$

2023 Footprint Data



How do we know?



What is in Scope:

IN SCOPE OF TARGET BY 2030

SCOPE 1

Building emissions from oil and gas heating:
churches & church buildings; cathedrals;
housing; offices; TEIs; schools over which the
Church has significant influence

Business travel in owned petrol/diesel vehicles



IN SCOPE OF TARGET BY 2030

SCOPE 3

Business travel in non-owned transport



NOT IN SCOPE

aim to missional Influence

Commuting
Congregation travel
Staff and clergy family lifestyles
Church Members' Emissions
Emissions from school buildings over
which the Church has little influence



IN SCOPE OF TARGET BY 2030

SCOPE 2

Generation emissions from the
electricity we use to run our buildings



IN SCOPE BUT ONLY AFTER 2030

SCOPE 3

Purchasing
Waste
Water
Contractors
IT
Air conditioning gases

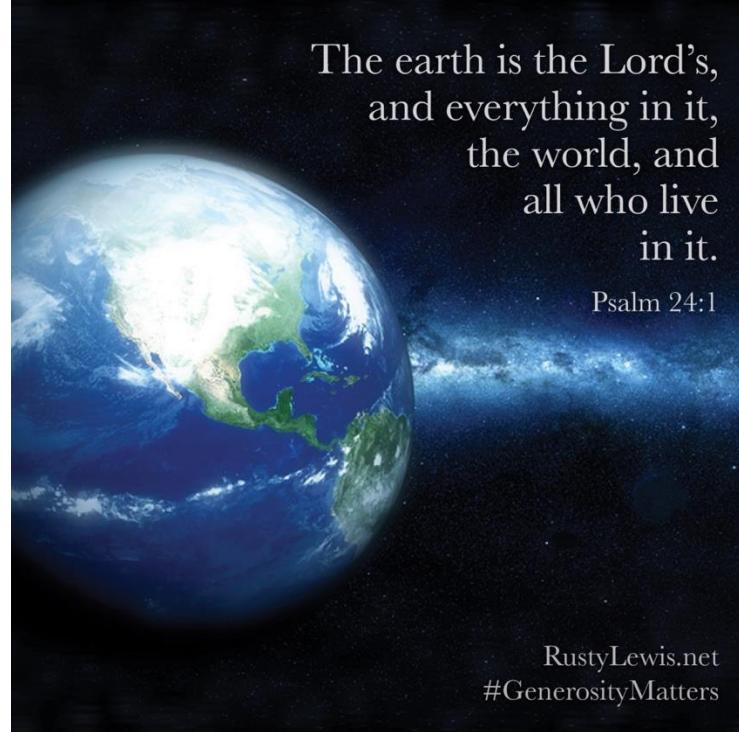


What are we starting to achieve?

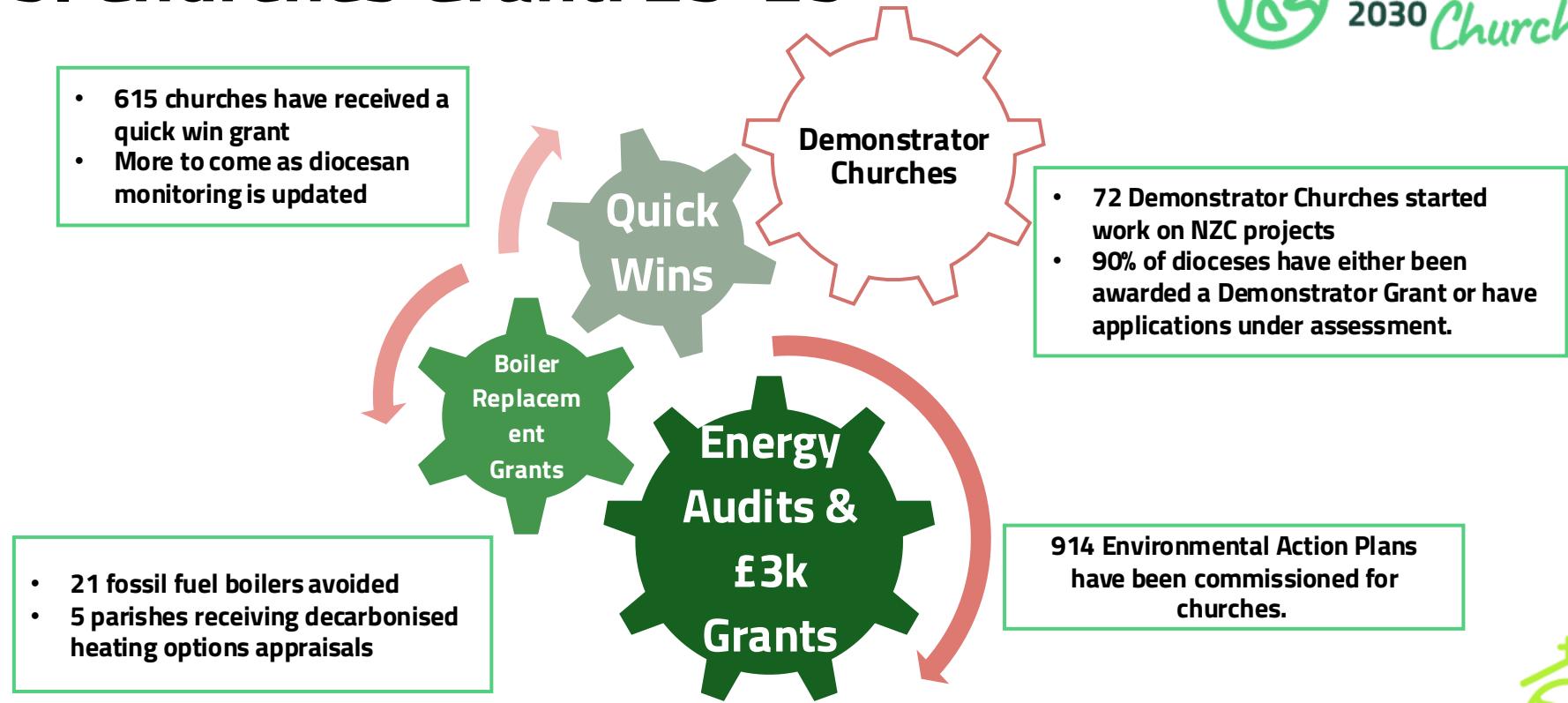


Progress so far:

- **Every Diocese benefitting from Net Zero funding. 58 NZC roles (45 FTEs)**
- **Strong impetus for collaboration with Dioceses wanting to work together on Net Zero**
- **Multiple grant streams and projects operational**
- **5,871 churches are registered under A Rocha's Eco Church initiative**



5. Churches Grant: 23-25



GIVE TO GO GREEN



**127 churches in 8 dioceses have raised almost £918,000 towards
decarbonization projects totalling £2.48m.**



You give.
We match.
Double your impact.



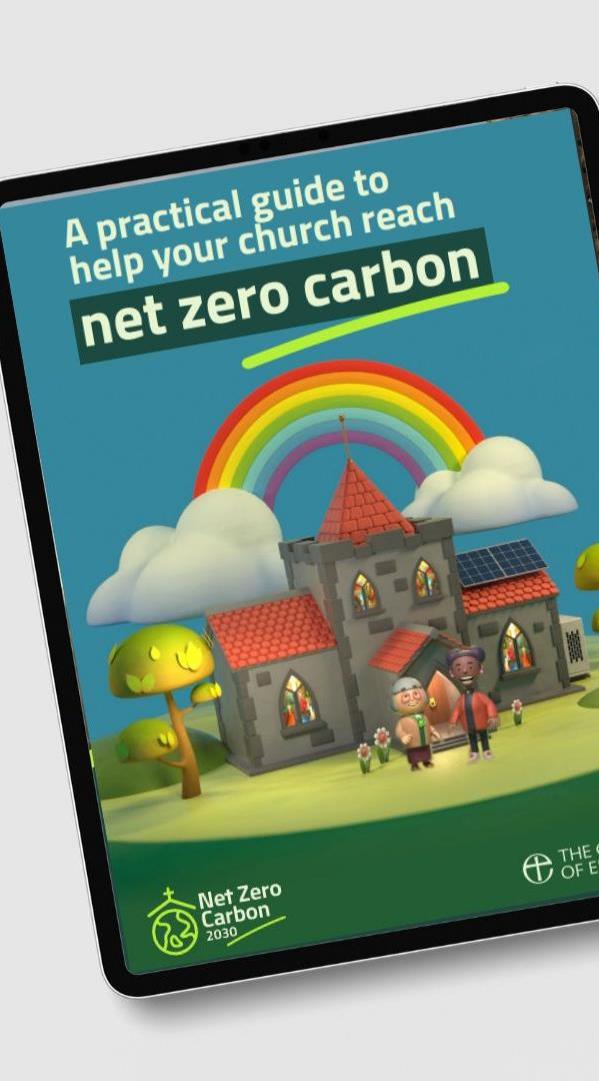
Challenges:

- Parish experience to progress net zero projects/fundraising
- Grid connectivity and capacity
- Heritage considerations – fabric and significance
- Environmental considerations – Habitats, species, groundwater
- Availability of suitable technologies
- Funding (but its not the main barrier)



What have we learnt:

- Good decarbonization projects deliver co-benefits
- Small net zero interventions can make a big difference
- People are very willing to help fund Net Zero projects
- Most of our buildings need to decarbonise in stages
- Commitment to making progress towards 2030 is growing



What is next? (and reasons to be cheerful)



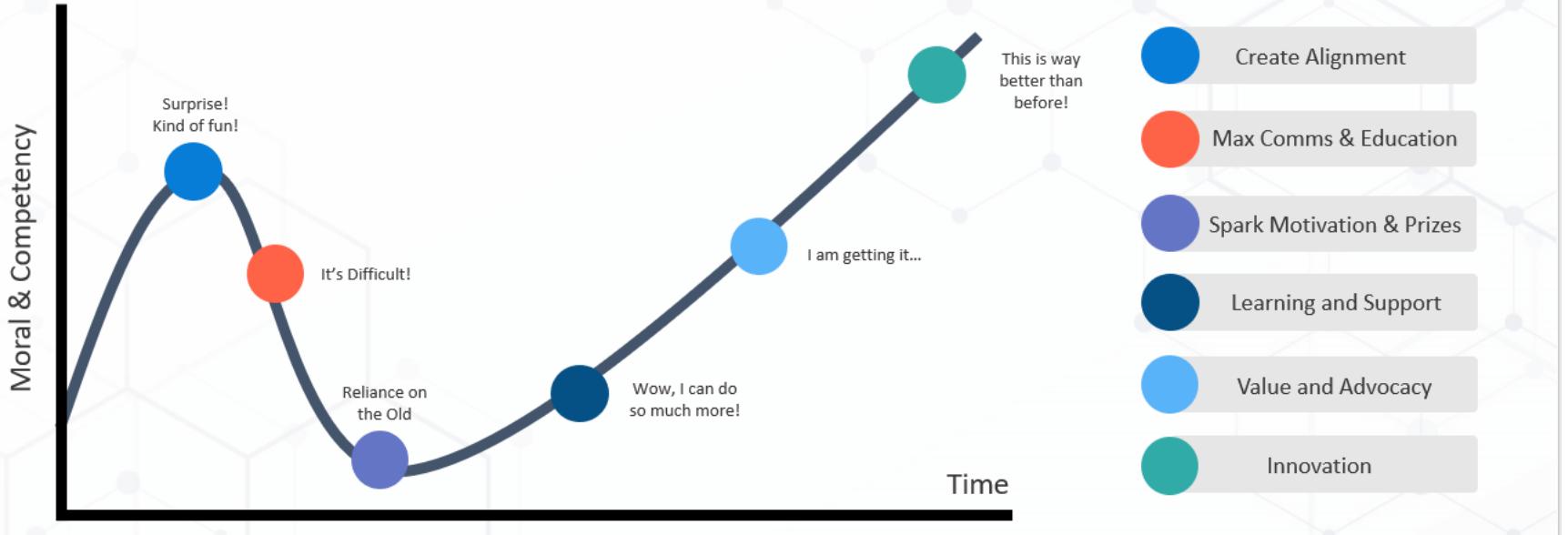


Remembering where we are:

- Climate change impacts are real, devastating and accelerating
- Globally, we are a long way off where emissions reductions need to be
- Despite climate change being a divisive issue, for CofE this is rooted in our Christian faith and missional



Managing Change at Scale (Part 2 of 2)

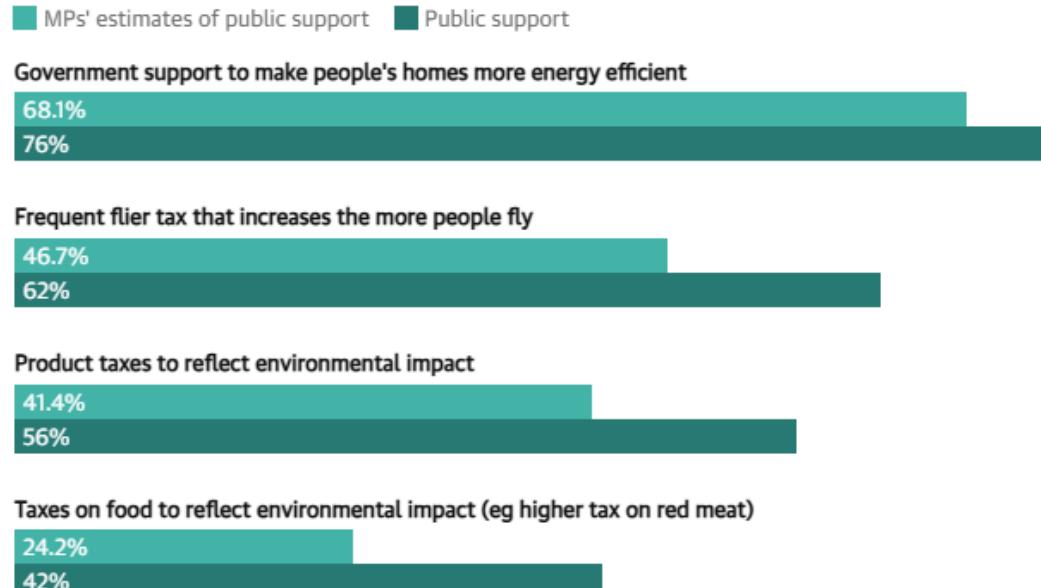
[Let's Chat!](#)

'A silent majority': MPs underestimate support for green policies, study reveals

Damian Carrington
Environment editor

Mon 5 Jan 2026 12.38 GMT

UK MPs underestimate public support for green policies



Guardian graphic. Source: Poll of 50 UK MPs by Tanase, de-Wit, Reisch & Dewies versus Ipsos poll of 4,201 members of the UK public





Triennium 26-28 brings an investment of £40 million

- Direct funding to greatest national impact
- Not losing sight of the ambition – commitment remains the same
- Extension to 2034 (originally 2031)
- Same funding (£190m)

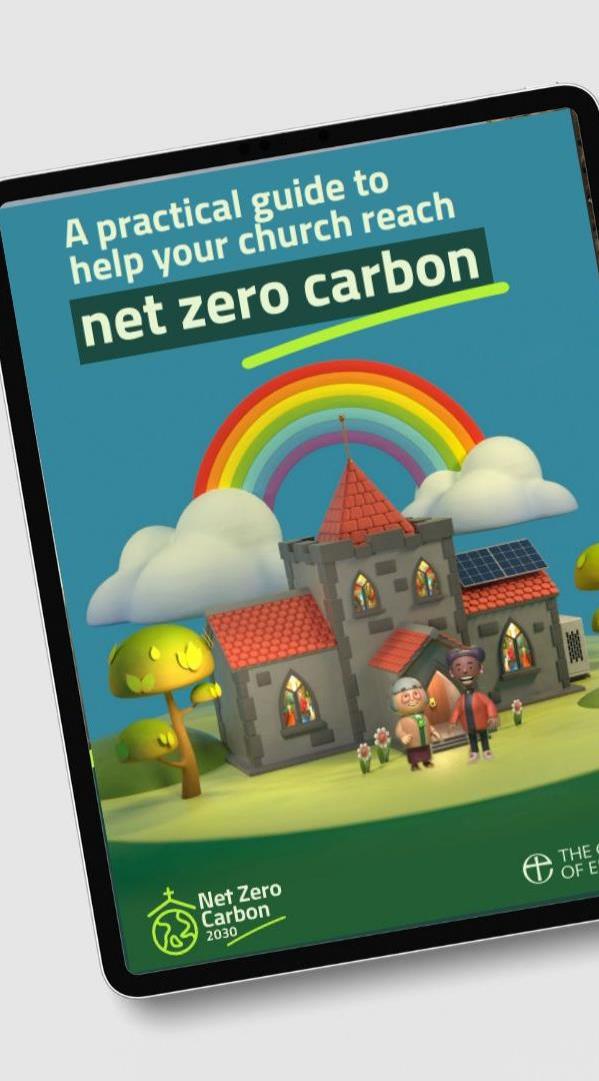


A photograph of two young girls in school uniforms jumping with excitement. They are wearing blue cardigans over white shirts and dark skirts/pants. One girl has her arms raised, and they are both smiling broadly. The background shows a school building and some trees.

Keeping the momentum going

- Our approach for 2026-28 is an evolution of 2023-25 based on what we have learnt so far
- Build on what is working and embed good practice
- Need all parts of the church to collaborate on net zero actions
- Need to think ahead in terms of climate risks (mitigation & adaptation)





What guidance and support is available for churches?

- [Diocesan NZC Leads](#)
- [The practical path to net zero carbon for churches](#)
 - In the process of being updated to bring in links to guidance/case studies
- [Case Studies on the website](#)
- CCB heating guidance
- NZC Factsheets (coming soon)



“We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organise and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win.....”

President John F Kennedy,
12th September 1962

