Net Zero Carbon Feasibility Grant

Information for churches

About the grant

We are offering grants to support churches towards decarbonisation, by funding a small cohort of churches to progress to feasibility stage, and share the learning so that many more churches can benefit.

This means that ten churches will have the opportunity to receive a modest grant of £3,000 towards a feasibility study, to develop their options and start the journey.

Can my church apply?

Churches are welcome to apply if:

1. They have completed the Energy Footprint Tool for 2026 (2025 data)
2. They are registered with Eco Church

They also need to demonstrate **one** of the following criteria:

3. The church falls into the top 20% of high-emitting churches within the diocese, according to the Energy Footprint Tool (see appendix 1 of the application form)
4. The church has an oil boiler
5. The church has been advised that its boiler is likely to fail in the next two years
6. The church doesn't meet these criteria but has an innovative and viable solution that it believes would warrant piloting and could benefit other churches.

We would also expect successful churches to have the full support of their PCC, to be willing to share their learning with other churches, the diocese and potentially the national church.

We would expect that some planning is already underway in terms of thinking about decarbonisation – for example the church has had an energy audit with a proposed solution, or developed some thinking about the type of heating that may be appropriate.

We would also encourage the church to reflect on its capacity to drive and deliver the project, and how it might move it forward once this phase of preparation is complete. However, it's worth noting that all of this will be done with the full support of the Environment Team.

If successful, what will my church be expected to do?

The intended outcome is that churches will identify a consultancy or independent firm to provide them with a feasibility study outlining their options to progress net zero carbon. These options would be in line with DAC requirements and take into account the church's needs for balancing carbon reduction with costs (upfront and running costs), and comfort levels.

The church would share any findings (e.g. feasibility report) with the diocese and commit to considering how it could progress the findings in line with our ambition to decarbonise by 2035. This would be done with the support of a Regional Fundraising Officer, the diocesan Environment Team, and the Church Buildings Team. It would also be done alongside a larger group of churches also on this journey.

How do we apply?

Fill in the application form and return to environment@oxford.anglican.org. If you have questions before applying, you can contact the Environment Team at any point using the above email address.

If successful, will the Diocese fund the capital works once we have completed this project?

We don't yet know what funding will be available at the end of the project, but as it stands, the Diocese cannot fund the capital works for parishes. We anticipate that national funding will be released to support these projects, but we also expect that in most cases full funding from the parish via fundraising and grant applications, or some match-funding will be required, and as such, we advise parishes that are involved to start thinking about how they would fundraise for their proposed project.

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