Environment and Net Zero Carbon update

Diocesan Synod, 14 November 2026

Context

This year marks the fourth annual environment and net zero carbon report to Diocesan Synod. Each year, we seek to share the latest available data, stories and evidence about the changes occurring within God's creation…and yet this year, our lived experience of changing weather patterns, climate impacts and disruption perhaps speak more powerfully than ever to the context in which we find ourselves. Wildfires, drought, extreme heat…all have arrived in the UK this year, with devastating effect. Our diocese is not immune; wildfires in Hungerford, Grove and Goring have taken place, burning out vehicles, closing roads, and putting homes and lives at risk.

Beautiful parts of God's creation have been devastated, as so much of Europe became a tinder-box following unprecedented drought and water shortages. Dunwich Heath is a heart-breaking example in the UK.[1] On the continent, wildfires came close to major cities[2] and caused tragedy in parts of Spain. Further afield, glacial collapse partially as a result of warming temperatures contributed to the catastrophic flooding in Nepal[3], destroying a number of lives and livelihoods.

These impacts are all symptoms of the new normal in which we find ourselves. And this is at a time when it feels difficult to speak openly about concepts such as 'climate change' and 'net zero', language which has become tragically politicised despite the need for urgent and consistent effort to address the many challenges we face.

It can be easy to fall into taking sides about this issue, in a world where it feels like hate and fear are on the rise. But what we need more than ever, is hope and love. To find hope, and love, name them, and offer them to the people in our communities – of all generations, backgrounds, beliefs – whom we serve. As a Discipleship Team we have sought to articulate where we see hope and love in our respective spheres of work in a paper called 'Hope and Love, not Hate and Fear.' This is not to take sides; it is to encourage conversations, questions and reflection from of a place of respect and love for one another as fellow Christians.

It can also feel easy to say that it is now too late. The United Nations has confirmed that the Paris Agreement's goal to limit global heating to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels is inevitable.[4] But that is not to say we give up – it means the need to keep heating as close to 1.5 degrees as possible is an absolute imperative. So, we urge this Synod to hold fast to our ambitions across all areas of our work, to delight in God's beautiful world wherever we find ourselves, and to recommit ourselves to doing all that we can with the gifts and resources we have in our hands.

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[1] Dunwich Heath wild fire closure | National Trust
[2] French wildfire near Bordeaux contained as 1,500 firefighters battle separate blaze in Provence
[3] Collapsed glacier likely caused devastating Nepal-Tibet floods, scientists say - BBC News
[4] UNEP: World set to cross 1.5°C global warming, but can still limit, adapt to and return from higher temperatures

Creation care across the diocese

At the time of writing, Creationtide is underway and churches and schools up and down the diocese are marking the season with special services, events, eco fairs and activities. The launch of the new Hope for All Creation report has provided a vital foundation that underpins our understanding of environmental theology in the light of the climate and nature crisis, and we pay tribute to Revd Margot and Dr Martin Hodson, and Revd Dr Timothy Howles, all diocesan residents, for their significant contributions to this document.

Local highlights from across the year include:

- An Eco Schools conference held by ODBST, celebrating the wonderful initiatives led by children from across the Multi Academy Trust (MAT) who are implementing net zero carbon initiatives, creating spaces for nature, and embedding sustainability practices across the school sites
- Film screenings of a new documentary about the climate and nature crisis that have taken place in a number of our churches, with many more planned this autumn. St John and St Stephen's in Reading welcomed nearly 70 people to their screening in the spring
- Churchyard wildlife tours hosted by St Mary's Wargrave and St Mary's Magdalene's Woodstock, among others, to share their experience of wildlife-friendly management with the local community
- St John's school in Newbury achieving net zero carbon, and featuring in the national church's annual net zero carbon impact report[5]
- Events and initiatives inspired by local churches, such as a sustainable flower festival in Newport Deanery, a 'show the love' event in Aston Tirrold, a creation care sermon series in Eynsham, and a family focused wildlife event at Great Coxwell
- The installation of solar panels at Christ Church Flackwell Heath, which had already saved 20kg of carbon not having to use grid electricity in the days following the install.

We are also delighted to report that we now celebrate 288 Eco Churches – an 8% increase on the previous year – which includes 1 Gold, 56 Silver and 83 Bronze awards. We will be continuing to support churches to engage with and progress through Eco Church over the coming year.

At a diocesan level, we have sought to engage, equip and encourage our churches, schools and communities in their efforts.

- We curated a podcast series hosted by Bishop Mary, called 'Common Ground', which offers thought-provoking conversations with residents living across the diocese who interface with a whole range of climate and nature issues
- Our Care for Creation newsletter, Greenshoots network, and topic-based webinars ran throughout the year to share information and resources with parishes
- We welcomed a new Deanery Environmental Lead in Aylesbury to be an ambassador locally, and she brings extensive knowledge of ecology and nature that she is sharing generously with others

[5] final-impact-report-2025.pdf p.18

- We have distributed £206,095 funding for churches for net zero carbon preparation studies and/or actions (see Appendix 1 for the full funding distribution for Triennium 1)
- We have supported the diocesan Social Justice Advisor to develop a Cool Spaces toolkit, equipping churches to be a space for their communities during times of extreme heat
- In partnership with our colleagues in London, Southwark and Winchester Diocese, we have successfully recruited a Regional Development Officer to support strategic fundraising for net zero carbon
- Following a successful application to the national Net Zero Carbon Programme Board, we have been awarded funding to appoint a net zero carbon consultant, who will be offering targeted support to eligible parishes for the next three years
- In ODBE, our Schools Premises Officer has become an ENCO[6] (Energy Conscious Organisation) ambassador, advising schools on ways they can become more energy efficient.

From the Church Buildings team

37 heating related **applications** into DAC	**11** **enquiries** for air source heat pumps, and an additional **6 applications**	**11** **enquiries** for solar panels, and an additional **7 applications**	**26** **early stage enquiries** for net zero carbon related advice

From the Church Buildings Team

The Church Buildings Team and DAC have continued to support parishes in bringing forward projects that reduce carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency, with expected outcomes including an increased uptake in low-carbon technologies, and simultaneously the impact of funding uncertainty, which naturally influences parish decision-making.

The most significant progress has been the mainstreaming of net zero thinking across church building projects. Environmental considerations are no longer confined to specialist projects but are increasingly part of discussions around repairs, reordering, maintenance and heating replacement. Experience has shown that achieving net zero carbon in a diverse and largely historic church estate is extremely complex. Technical solutions need to be carefully tailored to individual buildings and communities, and successful projects require a combination of specialist advice, funding opportunities and local capacity. It has also become clear that

[6] EnCO Foundation — People-Based Energy Solutions

behaviour change, energy management and incremental improvements are also important alongside major capital projects.

The overall direction of travel remains unchanged, but delivery has become more pragmatic and phased. Greater emphasis is now placed on helping parishes identify achievable next steps, improving energy efficiency and preparing for future decarbonisation opportunities, rather than pursuing major interventions where financial or practical barriers remain prohibitive.

Our priorities are to continue supporting churches in reducing carbon emissions through practical and affordable measures, increase the uptake of low-carbon heating and renewable energy where appropriate, improve the evidence base for decision-making, and maximise access to external funding opportunities. While remaining fully committed to the Diocese's net zero ambitions, future delivery will need to reflect the constraints of available funding, the challenges presented by historic buildings and the capacity of parishes to implement change at scale.

From the Retrofit team

Progress within the clergy housing retrofit programme has been exceptional, with all targets on track – putting us well ahead of other dioceses thanks to the decision by this Synod to commit significant investment, and a knowledgeable, committed team.

During 2025, a further 61 properties were upgraded to EPC C or above across the portfolio, bringing the total number upgraded to 111 properties (by the end of 2025, in line with our net zero carbon emissions report, below). Improvements have included solar PV, air source heat pumps, insulation, triple glazing, all supported by thermal imaging and airtightness testing.

Overall in 2025, 80 properties benefitted from low carbon improvement measures – including the 61 where the EPC was upgraded to a C, improving overall energy efficiency and bringing utility bills down for clergy and tenants.

The number of properties with an EPC F remains at two, but the clear route map for these two properties (as well as the other low E rated properties) is now in place ready to deliver in 2026.

The team has successfully secured additional external funding and is pleased to report total income from grants up to the end of 2025 is £449,000, which includes £90,000 secured directly through the Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) grant – and they have completed the year on budget.

The challenges and opportunities

There is no doubt that capacity at a parish level to manage the many competing demands, as well as engage well in creation care and net zero carbon, remains a challenge. Creation care is often championed by one passionate individual and not always embedded within the whole life of the church. The Eco Church framework[7] is intended to support churches to embed and

[7] Eco Church - An A Rocha UK Project

sustain creation care commitments but it is nonetheless a struggle for many of our smaller and medium-sized churches.

It goes without saying that the current political context, and a desire to undo progress towards net zero carbon is very apparent and requires us to speak courageously into the public square. And we continue to struggle with insufficient levels of funding and resource to enable change at the pace and scale that we would like to see, following cuts to government funding for schools and limited available grants for our churches.

However, amongst the significant challenges, we find many opportunities. The aforementioned Hope for All Creation, and the new liturgical Feast of Creation in Christ, are both pivotal moments that encourage us to recognise creation care as intrinsic to who we are as Christian disciples; we are looking forward to unpacking these at a dedicated event in March at which everyone is welcome.

We have more capacity than ever within our net zero carbon work, through our triennium funding, national grants, the appointment of our new consultant, and our Regional Development Officer. This is also a moment for us to recognise and thank Liz Kitch, Head of Church Buildings, who we will greatly miss, as she leaves the diocese and to whom we would like to pay tribute for all that she has given to this area of work over the last few years.

And finally, there is opportunity in the wake of such devastating climate impacts to find our place as church in the midst of anxiety and upheaval. Through partnerships here and overseas, conversations and collaboration, we are already considering where we can bring our expression of hope; spiritually, pastorally and practically.

Rooted in hope

This report, and all that follows below, is rooted in hope. Hope that we see alive and well in our many churches, schools and communities recommitting time and time again to caring for God's creation. Hope that we see in the resources and opportunities being unlocked across all sectors of society to face the challenges ahead. And hope that we have in our living God, who is at work in us and in creation, and who gave us the ultimate hope through the resurrection. It is, after all, the work of the church to bring light, love and hope to the world, and now, more than ever, are we needed to do so.

Bishop Mary
Hannah Mann
November 2026

Oxford Diocese Board of Finance

2025 Annual Carbon Emissions Report - November 2026

Executive summary

We are delighted to share that carbon emissions reductions this year put us firmly on track to achieve our goal of net zero carbon by 2035, with an overall 19% reduction in net emissions against our 2019 baseline – which puts us in a good position to meet the 25% reduction by 2026 milestone set in our net zero carbon action plan. This is testament to the incredible work by committed individuals in our parishes, and by our outstanding retrofit team; emissions reductions against the baseline for clergy housing is the highest, at 22%. We can take huge encouragement from this report, as we continue to invest in our properties, resource and support our parishes, and consider our working practices as staff. Operationally, diocesan emissions are up slightly in our offices and travel behaviours. There will always be an important balance to be struck to ensure we are delivering effectively for our parishes, while also being mindful of our environmental and carbon impact.

Carbon emissions data up to 2025

Source	**Baseline (2019)**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
	tCO_2e				
Churches	6,150 (gross)* n/a net	5,934 (gross) 5,528 (net)**	5,260 (gross) 4,827 (net)	5,619 (gross) 4,959 (net)	5143 (gross) 4,441 (net)
Clergy Housing	2,815	2,815	2,463	2,399	2,190
Church halls	n/a included in church data	304 (gross) 253 (net)	529 (gross) 469 (net)	689 (gross) 554 (net)	584
Offices* **	96	69	60	55	60
Staff travel	160	98	155	157	155
Procurement	70	70	70	70	70
Totals	**9291**	**9290 (gross) 8833 (net)**	**8538 (gross) 8040 (net)**	**8989 (gross) 8194 (net)**	**8270 (gross) 7,499 (net)**

**Gross emissions represent the total amount of greenhouse gases (GHGs) released into the atmosphere by an entity or activity, before any reductions or adjustments are made, such as through carbon offsets or the use of renewable energy certificates*

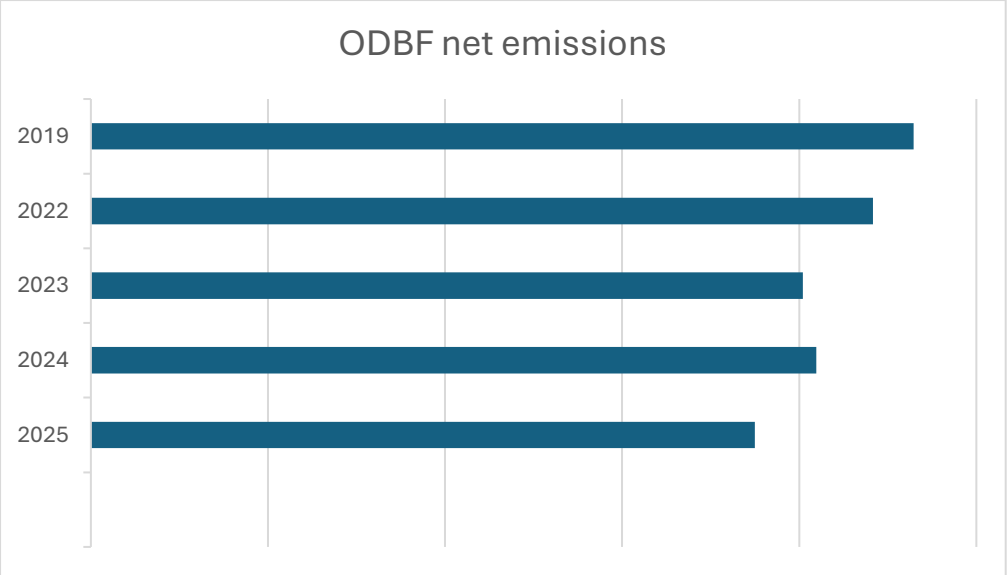
*** Net emissions represent the final amount of a substance, such as a greenhouse gas, that remains in the atmosphere after accounting for both the emissions produced and the amount removed or offset by natural or artificial processes*

**** Includes the Archdeacon's House Office at Stone for the first time in 2025, without which it would be 56 tCO_2e*

Data charts

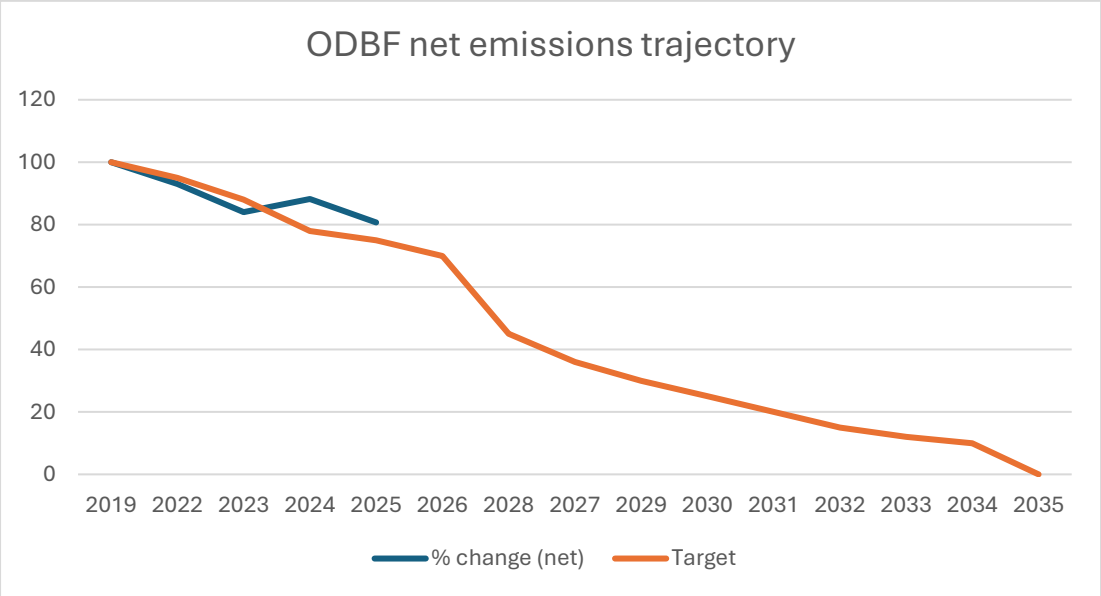
Net carbon emissions are used in the following charts, as we are aiming for a net zero carbon goal:

Figure 1.1



1.1 This data chart represents the total net emissions in tonnes per annum year on year since 2019, discounting the Covid years 2020 and 2021.

Figure 1.2



1.2 This data chart represents the progress towards our goal, along a forecast trajectory of emissions reduction that would enable us to meet that goal. Last year we were off target but have recovered this year.

About the data

- **Churches**: our data for churches is based on Energy Footprint Tool returns, for which we had a record return in 2025 – 77% of churches submitted some or all of their data, which helps us in ensuring the reports we produce are as robust as possible.
- Where there are gaps in the data, we used previous years data where available, otherwise we use estimates based on churches with a similar size building floor area.
- **Clergy housing**: as in previous years the calculations made for clergy housing have been made by looking at the retrofit projects delivered in properties since the original auditing exercise that was carried out in 2020/2021 and deducting the projected carbon emissions reductions using sophisticated software. As we do not collect energy bill data from our clergy, we cannot track emissions in the same way as we would churches, offices, or schools.
- **Church halls**: it remains very difficult to give accurate data for halls, as there are discrepancies where churches haven't reported in both years, and haven't separated the data for the hall on one year. This year, 101 separate church halls were fully reported (a further 28 started to fill in the tool but didn't complete), compared to 121 last year, 81 in 2023 and 56 in 2022.
- **Staff travel**: this figure includes 64.2 tCO_2 of flights, for which we give a climate contribution to Climate Stewards to support clean energy projects in the global south. This figure remains fairly constant from previous years.
- **Procurement:** we continue to work from an estimate; hence this figure remains unchanged.
- We are not reporting reimbursed parish travel this year, in line with last year.

Data analysis/points to note

Churches:

There has been an encouraging drop in both gross emissions, as well as net emissions, which means that overall consumption is going down. It will always be challenging to unpack exactly where this reduction is coming from and why without very detailed analysis of the data, which is beyond the capacity of the team. However, our energy audit programme has supported many churches take measures to become more energy efficient, the high cost of energy at the moment is of course encouraging churches to reduce their overall consumption in order to manage their bills; and there will also be more sobering cases where either the heating has failed, or overall usage of the church building has fallen. The ongoing decarbonisation of the grid will also be a factor in the drop in net emissions.

On gas, the Church of England has recently decided to discount green gas as part of efforts to net zero carbon.[8] So we have reinstated these previously netted-off emissions for the ten churches that are currently on a green gas tariff.

[8] Green Tariffs | The Church of England

We continue to see an encouraging increase in the number of churches adopting 'approved' renewable electricity tariffs[9], from 280 churches (35%) in 2024 to 332 (42%) in 2025.

Clergy housing:

The 22% decrease in emissions is encouraging – especially as at the end of 2025, is only half way through the programme and means we are well on track to achieve the forecast 30% emissions reduction by the end of the programme. Much of the lower-hanging fruit has now been tackled and so it is likely that the pace of emissions reductions will now slow, as the harder properties are addressed.

Staff operations (travel and offices):

The only areas where we have seen slight increases in emissions are from central staff operations. Travel has now returned to slightly above pre-Covid levels, and it will be important to revisit our approach and reflect carefully and how we can serve parishes well and be mindful of our impact. More staff are claiming for electric or hybrid vehicle miles, with these vehicles accounting for 27% of private car claims compared to 13% in 2024.

Procurement:

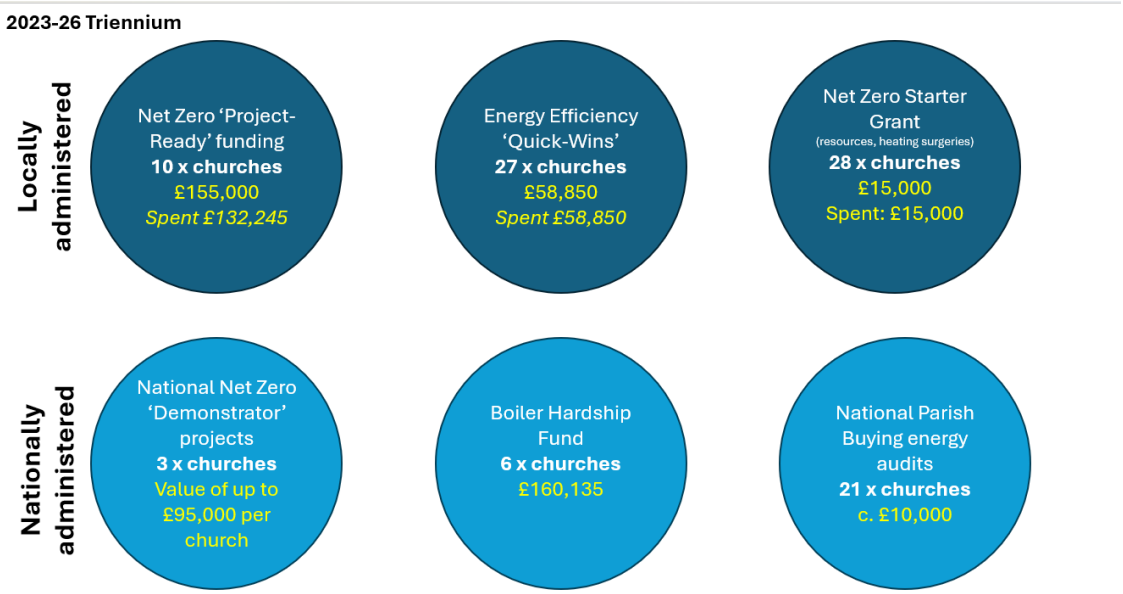
This remains a challenge for reporting and takes a significant amount of staff capacity which we currently feel can't warrant that level of investment given the modest emissions we are estimating. It is important that we acknowledge our level of influence over these 'scope 3' emissions and we will revisit this area as further guidance and measurement tools emerge to support our reporting. We are learning from our friends in the Diocese of Växjo where they use categories of spend and a related emissions factor to calculate procurement related emissions – this could be an approach we can adopt moving forwards.

Further information

For details on how we arrived at these calculations, please contact the Environment Team. Emissions were calculated using best available data, weather-adjusted for churches, and extrapolating from a reliable sample where necessary, and working with UK government greenhouse gas emissions conversion factors for 2025. We are using the national Church of England definition for net zero calculations, which can be found in the Routemap to Net Zero Carbon on page 68; and therefore, we are not including parish scope 3 (indirect) emissions.

[9] CofE Infographic_V4 – p.2

Appendix 1: Grant awards to churches during Triennium 1 (Summer 2023- 30 June 2026)



Schools (ODBE, ODST, ODBST)

Annual environment and net zero carbon annual report for 2025

Executive summary

This year's report is extremely encouraging, with improving efficiencies and an overall reduction in carbon emissions across our in-scope schools, even while the number of schools coming into scope has increased from 2024 to 2025. Given the changing number of schools in-scope each year, we are tracking emissions reductions using intensity ratios – which means emissions per metre^2 are down 17% against last year, and down 11% when measuring emissions per pupil. This is testament to the excellent work by the teams, supporting schools to manage their energy consumption, delivering effective capital projects throughout the year, and maximising the very limited pool of funding.

Schools that fall in-scope

We work to the national Church of England's definition of schools that fall in-scope of our net zero carbon target. This definition is set out in the national Routemap to Net Zero Carbon[10], and includes any school over which the DBE has a 'significant degree of influence' at a governing body level, i.e. majority membership on the governing board. The changes in the number of schools we are reporting against are indicated in the table below.

Schools' energy data

	2019 (baseline)	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2024-25 change**
Number of schools in-scope	130	133	130	160	170	N/A
Gross non-electric consumption (kWh)	13,913,498	16,952,648	13,333,278	21,667,724	19,396,794	
Gross total consumption (kWh)	19,985,775	23,894,997	19,205,762	32,038,599	29,850,906	
Gross carbon emissions (tCO_2e)	5,282	5,867	4,625	7,787	6,765	
Total pupils*	-	-	-	40,032	40,641	2%
Emissions per pupil (tCO_2e)*	-	-	-	0.19	0.17	**-11%**

[10] churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/RoutemapToNetZeroCarbonFinal.pdf

Total estate (m^2)*	-	-	-	272,322	278,912	2%
Emissions per sq. m (tCO_2e)*	-	-	-	0.029	0.024	**-17%**

**This data was collected for the first time in 2024, as another means by which we can measure the overall improvement in emissions over time, despite a changing/growing number of schools moving into scope.*

About the data

The data was gathered using several sources; energy consumption figures, Display Energy Certificates (DECs) and then estimated data where neither of these were available. We will be continuing to encourage all schools to be submitting energy consumption figures, as this gives us the most accurate picture. Where data isn't available in the table, it wasn't possible to go back and find that data for previous years.

We are only reporting gross carbon emissions figures, not net emissions. None of our schools are currently on energy tariffs that would be counted under the Church of England's list of approved renewable tariffs[11].

We understand 19 of the 2025 in scope schools have solar PV but we only obtained generation figures from 9 (these totalled 234,331 kWh, 34% of those 9 schools' total electricity use).

We are including the consumption figures for non-electric energy sources (gas, oil, kerosine and LPG), because a reduction in these figures – even as school numbers and overall consumption increases – are a good indicator of the success of the net zero carbon projects being implemented across the schools. These will take sometimes up to two years to show in the data, because of the lag between installation, data collection, and data reporting.

Data analysis

The data suggests the following:

- Despite an increase in the number of schools from 160 in 2024 to 170 in 2025, overall carbon emissions actually dropped. We don't report this as a percentage over time as it wouldn't be an accurate reflection change but is therefore even more encouraging. This could be down to a number of factors, including a very mild winter at the end of 2025, more energy conscious schools, and ongoing capital projects to improve energy efficiency and remove fossil fuels.
- We also don't know how much of a factor overall grid decarbonisation is having on our figures, and this could be playing a role in reducing emissions – with a particular impact on schools that are now relying on electrically-based heating systems.

[11] www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/green-energy-companies-and-the-energy-footprint-tool-jan-2025.pdf

Schools' travel data

Prior to 2024 we had reported on school travel separately, however this is currently not a national requirement, and the data returns we gathered in 2024 and 2025 are too small to be accurate. The data we did receive from 45 schools in 2024 gave a carbon emissions total of 73.5 tonnes CO_2e, from coach and minibus hire, owned minibuses and school staff reimbursed expenses. This is lower than previous years but is not reflective because of the lower level of returns. Only 20 schools responded in 2025. The majority of mileage is annual coach trips.

We will continue to follow national guidance on reporting travel but focus our efforts on the school buildings in terms of ongoing decarbonisation.

The challenges and opportunities

As in previous years, but now more than ever, the funding challenge is significant – especially in the context of schools already facing pressing repair issues that need to be prioritised for the wellbeing of staff and students. With a current 2050 government net zero carbon target, there is no immediate plan for funding to be released into schools for this work. However, we continue to explore potential new models for financing low-carbon opportunities; maximising any local funding streams from community or local authority schemes and working with the national church to support their advocacy efforts.

The focus on energy efficiency is a vital and effective piece of the puzzle, already producing results across our schools. We will continue to prioritise these smaller measures and embed energy efficiency holistically within our approach.

Sustainability across our schools

An update from ODBE:

Capital projects

- The development of our solar PV programme is progressing well. Several steps are being completed including DNO applications and roof structure surveys. We continue to look at alternative funding streams to support the programme.
- This year we have completed another decarbonisation project at one of our schools. There was due to be a second school decarbonized but the cost of the electrical upgrades meant the project could not go ahead.
- We are working with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to support the delivery of renewable energy projects to our Oxfordshire based schools through the Council's 0% interest loan scheme for solar photovoltaic and battery storage installations. Subject to feasibility and approval processes, these projects will be underway in the early part of 2027.
- Further work will also be undertaken to explore opportunities through future rounds of the School Decarbonisation Grant Fund provided by the Net Zero Carbon Schools Workstream.

EnCo Foundation Engagement

- Our Premises Officer has become a trained 'Energy Conscious Organisation Consultant' to further support our schools in reducing energy consumption, increasing sustainability awareness and embedding energy-conscious behaviours across school communities.

Energy Procurement

- We continue to review and manage energy tariffs on behalf of our schools. ODBE has now supported a number of our schools to change energy providers to a cheaper and greener alternative and we continue to work to do the same for the rest of the ODBE estate.

An update from ODBST:

Sustainability Update

EV Charger Programme

Good progress has been made this term on the Trust's EV charging ambitions.

- Operational installations: EV chargers were installed at Downley School during February half term and went live shortly after essential electrical works were completed. Chargers at Chiltern Hills remain operational in use, though changes were made to the location due to a visitor damaging the posts.
- Thomas Harding and Longwick School EV chargers were installed over the Summer Holidays.
- The ODBST were contacted by a press agency who ran a story regarding the ODBST's EV charger installations and ambitions, highlighting the Trust's role as a leader in this area.
- These chargers were fully funded at the time through a mix of the workplace OZEV and a private donation.
- The EV programme remains strategically important for Net Zero goals but is being carefully phased to manage infrastructure risk and avoid overcommitment beyond secured funding.

Heat Pump Project – Longwick (LGW)

- The CIF-funded heat pump project at Longwick remains one of the Trust's largest decarbonisation initiatives.
- UK Power Networks approval has now been received, allowing the project to proceed.
- Works began over Easter 2026. Previous heating systems were stripped out and new pipe work installed.
- The Trust is also exploring simultaneous solar panel installation to optimise infrastructure costs and carbon reduction impact. 3 quotes were obtained with 50% funded by the Longwick parish council and the Trust funding the additional 50%. This will be paid back via the savings achieved. This is on hold whilst the roof is assessed for its structural capacity.

Solar and Community Energy Activity

- The government provided clarity and acceptance for PPA agreements on schools. Therefore, discussions were re-opened with Bucks Community Energy for feasibility at Elmtree and St Mary's, with early-stage assessments for solar underway.

- Solar remains challenging due to limited government funding but the largest issue we face is the poor condition of roofs at almost every ODBST school. Placing solar on a failing roof risks a short life span. It would be far more impactful to consider solar alongside roof replacements, as this would save money and ensure maximum efficiency.
- If the Trust were to pay for solar out of reserves, we could achieve a far larger scale of works. With schools paying back through the energy savings, we would look at approximately 5-10 year pay back periods, project dependant.
- It is important to identify and acknowledge that we will not reach any net zero targets in any meaningful way without beginning to spend from SCA, reserves or interest. This is currently in discussion as use of reserves strategy is not in place yet.
- Discussions with a local solar farm are ongoing about potential funding for solar at Padbury.

Eco Leads, Conference and Pupil Voice

- Several schools reported being on track to achieve a green flag this term. 1 school felt the cost of the application £200 too expensive to justify with their in- year deficit.
- The Eco Conference took place successfully on 21*st* May at the ODBST office. All primary schools attended and presented their progress. Our Trust catering partners, Chartwells, provided a delicious 'sustainability' themed lunch menu free of charge which all children and staff enjoyed. Their sustainability manager also gave a presentation on sustainable food which was very informative.
- Sustainability continues to be embedded as a strategic priority across curriculum, estates, procurement, and governance, rather than treated as a single project stream.
- Year end – 5 schools achieved a green flag (1/3 of the Trust).

-ENDS-