

Net Zero Action Plan -Phase 1

Step 1: PCC to nominate a Net Zero Carbon (NZC) Lead on the PCC and if appropriate form a small NZC Working Group

The Net Zero Carbon Lead does not need to be anyone with any particular experience of this. It just needs to be someone with a desire to see us take better care of the planet that God has created for us to live on. They may already be involved in any Eco Church work that you are doing or they may not. It would be good to form a small group as action plans can be difficult to write on your own, but don't try and write it with the whole PCC, probably a group of 3 or 4 would work best. It may be useful to include the treasurer if they are willing as they are probably the person who has access to the utility bills.

The action plan process has been spilt into 3 phases over an 18 month period so that you have time to understand the options and develop an action plan that is relevant and can be delivered. Even after you have a full action plan it will continue to be a live document as technologies will change, as might the usage of your buildings.

At this initial stage it is important to not let potential costs dictate your plan as you may miss an opportunity that may be viable in a year or two's time.

It is important that the progress of your action plan is shared regularly with your full PCC and we would encourage you to put Net Zero Carbon as a regular item on your agenda.

Step 2: Complete Energy Footprint Tool on the Parish Returns Website and summarise the information below.

This is just the information taken straight from the Energy Footprint Tool. This should be the current data for the last full calendar year of electricity and gas bills. It is useful to look at the different buildings (or parts of buildings) separately as this may help you prioritise the areas where you can make the biggest reductions.

	Building 1	Building 2	Building 3
Name e.g. church, hall	<i>Church</i>	<i>Hall</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Size (sqm)	<i>565</i>	<i>420</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Heating Type	<i>Gas</i>	<i>Gas</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Carbon emitted	<i>5.6 Tonnes CO₂e</i>	<i>8.7 Tonnes CO₂e</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Total Carbon	<i>14.3 Tones CO₂e (down from 15.6 last year)</i>		

Step 3: Complete the Practical Path to Net Zero Checklist

[PP2NZC SelfGuidedChecklist onscreen version.pdf \(churchofengland.org\)](https://www.churchofengland.org/pp2nzc-selfguidedchecklist-onscreen-version.pdf)

CHECKLIST

Part A - Where do we start?

These are actions that nearly all churches can benefit from, even those primarily used only on a Sunday.

They are relatively easy and are a good place for churches to start, when trying to move towards 'net zero'.

	Already done / up-to-date	Not applicable	Not a priority right now	Explore further / get advice	Priority
The building itself:					
A1.	Maintain the roof and gutters, to prevent damp entering the building and warm air escaping.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A2.	Fix any broken window panes* and make sure opening windows shut tightly, to reduce heat loss.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A3.	Insulate around heating pipes to stop heat loss.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

This document will help you to produce the action plan for your church. Your initial priorities will probably be from Parts A&B unless you are already some way along this journey. It can be completed online and then saved / printed or if you prefer to be paper based then you can print it off and tick the boxes.

If you are not sure what some of the sections actually mean you can tick the "Explore further / get advice" box. If this is the case your first priority might be to contact Bethan Still the Diocesan Environmental Officer or Martin Howard the Buildings For Mission Secretary for some further information. Their contact details can be found at the end of this document.

Step 4: Review the Church Building Council (CBC) Guidance on Net Zero Carbon

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/net-zero-carbon-church>

The Church of England has produced a lot of resources that will help you understand some of the options that are available to help you reduce your carbon output as a church. If you are working as a small group you may wish to divide this up and look in detail at certain bits of the information and then share any important bits with others when you next meet.

The webinars are particularly useful to look at as they explain some of the terms in much simpler terms. The webinars can be watched live which gives you the opportunity to ask questions directly with the presenter, but the recordings of past webinars are just as useful to help you understand some of the different actions that you can take to reduce your carbon output.

The webinars can be found at [Webinars on getting to net zero carbon | The Church of England](https://www.churchofengland.org/webinars-on-getting-to-net-zero-carbon)

Once you have looked through the resources you will probably identify areas that you will want to investigate further. Martin and Bethan will be running several sessions through the year to help you understand some of the options that are available. Details of these are available on the Diocesan Website and in the regular diocesan communications, but you can always contact them directly.

Step 5: Using the information from the Practical Path to Net Zero Checklist and the CBC Guidance on Net Zero Carbon, complete the below overleaf to begin forming your action plan.

This is a document that will evolve over time, so don't think that you are committed to carrying out all of these actions by 2030. Technology is changing all of the time and there may well be different options for you to consider in a few years' time. The purpose of this document is to help you to begin the journey of reducing your carbon output.

Below is an example of what could be included but don't worry if yours ends up being different. Every church building is different and the usage of every building will be different, so what might be appropriate for one building won't be for another.

Quick Wins (zero or minimal cost):

	Action	Resources required	Who's responsible?
1	Clear all the gutters and drain pipes to ensure all walls are kept dry.	Get quote from usual roofing contractor for gutters. Work party to clear all gulleys.	Churchwarden
2	Change times of the regular church prayer meetings to follow on from a previous activity and reduce heating times	None	Vicar
3	Change light fittings to LED lights in the most used areas.	Quote to be obtained from electrician. Permission from Archdeacon	Churchwarden

Medium Term Actions (next 2 years):

	Action	Resources required	Who's responsible?
1	Add zones to the existing heating system so that meeting room can be heated separately.	Quote to be obtained from local heating contractor	M.Smith
2	Move Evening Service to follow Messy Church on 4 th Sunday.	None	Vicar
3	Install a smart meter so that energy use can be tracked more closely.	Contact energy supplier	F.Jones

Longer Term Actions (by 2030):

	Action	Resources required	Who's responsible?
1	Replace oil boiler with electric heating system.	Obtain quotes for pew heaters and infrared heating. Fundraising/ grants.	F.Jones
2	Add insulation to the roof when it is replaced. QI report suggests within the next 5 years.	Obtain quotes for roof replacement. Long term budget. Fundraising/ grants.	F.Jones
3	Replace windows to side rooms with double glazing.	Obtain quotes for double glazing Long term budget. Fundraising/ grants.	M.Smith

Step 6: Identify what further support / information that you need to obtain to allow you to develop your action plan.

Every church will be starting this process from a slightly different position so we will all need different bits of information. Some churches may have members of the congregation who have already reduced the carbon output of their own properties and therefore have done a lot of research already that can be shared. Others will be looking at this for the very first time.

Further information and support required:

- Attend training session on "Achieving Net Zero in your Church Building".
- Arrange for Bethan Still to visit the church and talk through some of the different heating options that might be appropriate.
- Contact Martin Howard to discuss what permissions will be required to add zones to the heating system e.g will a faculty be required.

For any further support please contact

Martin Howard Buildings For Mission Secretary

Tel. 07586090996

Or email netzero@durham.anglican.org

The completed form should be emailed to netzero@durham.anglican.org no later than 31/3/2026.