**Template Church Net Zero Carbon Action Plan**

The following document has been produced to act as a guide for parishes developing a strategy to work towards net zero carbon emissions. The Church of England’s hope is that by 2030, our **churches will be bright, warm and welcoming, consuming much less energy and emitting less carbon** than they do now. And that will be good for the people in our churches, and good for the whole of creation.

This template plan breaks actions down into six principles for achieving net zero carbon and caring for the environment:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Well Maintained***Reduce heat loss by keeping on top of basic maintenance and ensuring the building is wind and watertight* | **Buy Renewable***Switch to 100% renewable electricity and ‘green’ gas. Whilst this does not reduce the energy you use, it means it comes from a cleaner source* | **Waste Less***Waste less electricity, waste less gas/oil, tackle any food waste, reduce leaks and wasting water, and avoid unnecessary purchases* |
| **Electric not gas/oil***Where possible, look to transition away from gas or oil heating towards electricity-based heating* | **Generate More***For some churches, there are opportunities to generate electricity onsite from solar PV panels* | **Wider Environmental Actions***Churches can take action to care for the environment through platforms such as Eco Church or by engaging with your deanery network of Parish Environment Contacts* |

The template has been designed as a starting point for churches to use and adapt as you like. Please use the suggested actions only as a guide, deleting any that aren’t relevant and adding actions specific to your church buildings and parish.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Action** | **Objective** | **Cost** | **Who’s Responsible** | **Target Date** | **Comments** |
| **Well Maintained** |
| Develop maintenance plan for building/s | Consider and maintenance needs for building and plan ahead | Volunteer time |  |  |  |
| Ensure Quinquennial Inspection is carried out every 5 years | Understand repair needs for building |  |  |  |  |
| Arrange necessary repairs  | Ensure building remains weathertight |  |  |  |  |
| **Buy Renewable** |
| Switch to 100% renewable electricity tariff | Ensure electricity used comes from a cleaner source |  |  |  |  |
| Consider switching to 100% renewable gas tariff | Consider a 100% bio-gas tariff |  |  |  |  |
| **Waste Less** |
| Monitor existing energy use | Understand how much energy your church is using by using Energy Footprint Tool | Volunteer time |  | Annual | [*CofE Energy Footprint Tool*](https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org) |
| Consider CofE ‘Energy Efficiency’ guidance | Consider suggestions to help save your church energy and money  | Volunteer time |  |  | [*Practical Suggestions to Help Parishes Save Energy and Money*](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/po0518-cofe-practical-suggestions-document-print-v2.pdf) |
| Complete ‘Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon’ checklist | Assess what actions can be taken for your church | Volunteer time |  |  | [*Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon for Churches*](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/202101/PP2NZC_SelfGuidedChecklist_onscreen_version.pdf) |
| Consider actions to reduce heat loss | Improve energy efficiency of building |  |  |  | *e.g. Insulation, draughtproofing* |
| Develop an energy efficiency procurement policy | Commit torenewable electricity and A+++ rated appliances. |  |  |  |  |
| **Electric, not gas/oil** |
| Upgrade electrical systems | Improve electricity supply for church to allow for transition to electric heating |  |  |  |  |
| Consider options to move heating systems away from fossil fuel boilers | Understand the potential heating solutions for your church building |  |  |  | [*CofE Heating guidance*](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/heating) |
| Consider supplementary electric heating | Begin to transition away from reliance on gas/oil heating |  |  |  | *e.g. Under pew heaters, heated pew cushions, infrared panel heaters* |
| **Generate More** |
| Commission desk-based survey for solar PV panels  | Understand feasibility of solar panel installation to your church building/s |  |  |  | [*CofE Solar PV guidance*](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/CCB_SolarPV_Guidance.pdf) |
| **Wider Environmental Actions** |
| Register with Eco Church | Engage with platform to encourage churches to care for the environment |  |  |  | [*Eco Church website*](https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/) |
| Work towards Eco Church Award | Take practical actions as a church to care for the environment |  |  |  |  |
| Appoint a Parish Environment Contact | Engage with deanery network of environment contacts |  |  |  |  |
| Hold a Climate Sunday | Hold a climate-focussed service |  |  |  | [*Climate Sunday website*](https://www.climatesunday.org/) |
| Report on carbon footprint to PCC | Raise awareness on PCC of carbon emissions |  |  | Annual | [*CofE Energy Footprint Tool*](https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org) |
| Adopt an Environment Policy for your PCC | Commit as a PCC to take practical steps to care for the environment |  |  |  | [Template policy](http://cofebirmingham.com/content/pages/documents/cofeb-parish-environmental-policy-template.docx) |

**What have we already achieved?**

* *e.g. Installed LED lighting throughout the church*
* *…*
* *…*

**Key short-term actions (next 12 months)**

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* …
* …

**Key medium-term actions (next 2-5 years)**

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* …
* …

**Key long-term actions (next 5-10 years)**

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* …
* …