



Church Energy

As part of our care for God's creation, we look to minimise energy use. This helps towards the Church of England's target of Net Zero Carbon by 2030. It saves money too. In church buildings, this task can seem overwhelming but there are simple steps everyone can take to save energy. If in doubt, heat the people not the building!

Remember the cheapest energy is that which you do not use! Switch heating off before the end of a service to use residual heat. Wear an extra layer rather than turn the heating up. Check that your energy bill is not attracting more than 5% VAT.

1

Check energy bills regularly and use a smart meter to be aware of usage. Is something left on overnight, or when the church is empty?

Completing the CofE Energy Footprint Tool* helps you monitor your energy use year on year.

2

Reduce draughts, fix broken windows and have door curtains. However, don't block air bricks or other intentional ventilation. Windows can be opened to let condensation out and fresh air in.

3

Low use churches rarely need background heating. It is better to keep the temperature and humidity stable rather than boost the heating for a couple of hours.

4

If there are two thermostats on the boiler, the high flame setting needs to be lower than the temperature of the low flame setting. If there is a single thermostat, the dial should be only 2/3 round*.

5

Lag pipework and pumps to make sure the heat goes to the building not the boiler room. Check your frost thermostat is not set at too high a temperature. 2-3°C can be enough. **8**

Changing lightbulbs to LED can save a huge amount of energy.

Most classical fittings (bayonet or screw) can take new LED bulbs. For other fittings, check with your electrician. **9**

Do you need to have your floodlighting on? Can you switch it off completely? If not, switch off before 11pm. Consider having the lights sponsored for someone's birthday or anniversary. **10**

It has been estimated that 80% of mechanical electricity meters are showing the wrong time. If the meter is wrong, contact your energy supplier who has a duty to fix it for free. This will make a difference, particularly if you are on a weekend and evening tariff. **6**

Make sure radiators are functioning well by bleeding the air from them, gently vacuuming the dust out from behind them and, if possible, putting foil behind to reflect the heat. If they are still not getting warm, ask your heating engineer to clear the sludge! **7**

Further Resources

Read: The Diocesan Advisory Net Zero Committee Environment Guidance: www.lincoln.anglican.org/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=3dc3f21f-7a5b-4f54-bf5f-37e89a25e116

Case Studies: What other churches have done to address climate change: www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/towards-net-zero-carbon-case-studies

Church of England Net Zero resources: Lots to explore both theologically and practically: www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/net-zero-carbon-church

***Energy Footprint Tool:** This helps you to monitor how much energy the church buildings are using and to see what changes as you introduce environmental changes: www.churchofengland.org/about/policy-and-thinking/our-views/environment-and-climate-change/about-our-environment/energy-footprint-tool

Eco Church: This organisation seeks to help as many churches as possible celebrate what they're doing to care for the environment and decide what to tackle next: ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

Church of England Net Zero webinars: There are many but start with 'Housekeeping and Quick Wins' www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XIFuU27xY0

Diocesan Advisory Committee: 'Fix the leaks, lower the bills and help the planet!': www.youtube.com/watch?v=OueI4SLNzZo

***Church Urban Fund** webinar 'Heat your church sustainably this winter': www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dnkk_lh651k

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