

## **Buildings for Mission**

### **Net Zero Carbon Quick Wins Grant Fund**

### **Guidance and Eligibility**

The Net Zero Carbon Quick Wins Grant Fund aims to enable parishes to implement small scale net zero carbon works that will help reduce their church building's/church hall's carbon footprint. The funding has been made available to dioceses by the Archbishop's Council as part of the 2023-25 triennium funding programme.

- Grants of up to £5,000 can be made towards projects with costs of up to £10,000 (or £12,000 if the VAT is not eligible under the Listed Places of Worship (LPW) grant scheme) at a rate of up to 90%, unless there are exceptional circumstances. See 'Priority Areas' section below.
- This fund is not for works pertaining to fabric repairs and/or improvements; the Minor Repairs & Improvements Grant Fund is for this. Likewise, the Kingdom People/Healthier Churches fund should be approached for items relevant to those funding streams.
- If the applicant is not the PCC, they must be able to prove that they have the legal responsibility for repair and maintenance of the church building/church hall or include a written letter of agreement from the PCC authorising them to apply on the PCC's behalf.
- The offer of a grant from the Fund will not remove the requirement for the PCC to obtain faculty or approval under list A or B, as necessary, or any other necessary permission before the work goes ahead. The offer of a grant does not imply support for the proposal for the purposes of faculty or any other approval and does not indicate that permission will be forthcoming.
- Work should not begin until the Diocesan Board of Finance (as funder) has approved the scope, methodology and costs of the work and made an offer in writing which the PCC has accepted.
- Work costing more than £1,000 will need to be subject to some form of competitive procurement (normally by obtaining itemised quotations for comparison) on a best value basis. A full competitive tender exercise will not be required unless the nature of the work or other factors make it necessary.
- Work will need to be carried out, paid for, and claimed within a year of the offer date or by 31 December 2025, whichever is the sooner. The final deadline to submit an application for funding will be 31 May 2025.

## Eligible buildings

- Churches and church halls that are in active use and in parochial or diocesan ownership.

## Ineligible buildings

- CofE congregations meeting in rented or leased accommodation owned by others.
- Cathedrals, schools, housing, and other building types.

## Priority Areas

The Buildings for Mission project aims to give priority to areas which lack access to support for Church of England church buildings. The eligible level of grant will be assessed consistently according to the ranking of the ecclesiastical parish in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation as shown in the [Church of England Parish Map](#)

- |                                                     |                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| • Deprivation rank 6,236 to 12,307 (least deprived) | grant @ 50% (of grant award ceiling)             |
| • Rank 5,012 to 6,235 (top 40-50%)                  | grant @ 60%                                      |
| • Rank 3,812 to 5,011 (top 30-40%)                  | grant @ 70%                                      |
| • Rank 2,558 to 3,811 (top 20-30%)                  | grant @ 80%                                      |
| • Rank 1,232 to 2,557 (top 10-20%)                  | grant @ 90%                                      |
| • Rank 1 to 1,231 (top 1-10%)                       | grant @ 90% (or more if exceptionally justified) |

## Eligible work

### 1. Eligible Net Zero Solutions

#### The building itself:

- Repair to the roof and rainwater goods (e.g. gutters, downpipes)
- Fix any broken windowpanes\* and make sure opening windows shut tightly
- Insulate around heating pipes
- Draught-proof the gaps\* or put up a door-curtain\*.
- Rugs/floor-coverings (with breathable backings) and cushions on/around the pews/chairs.
- Where there is an uninsulated, easy-to access roof void, insulating the loft\*.
- Installing a glazed door within your porch or a draught-lobby\*.
- Creating one or more smaller (separately heatable) spaces for smaller events.
- Fabric wall-hangings or panels, with an air gap behind.

## **Heating and lighting:**

- Matching heating settings better to usage \*.
- Replace lightbulbs with LEDs, where simple replacement is possible.
- Replace floodlights with new LED units.
- Install a HIVE- or NEST-type heating controller, to better control heating.
- If current appliances fail, replace with A+++ appliances.
- Learn how the building heats/cool and the link to comfort, by using data loggers.
- Improve heating zones and controls.
- Install TRVs on radiators in meeting rooms & offices.
- Under-pew electric heaters \*.
- Infra-red radiant panel heaters\*.
- Magnetic sediment “sludge” filter to extend the life of the system.
- Thermal and/or motion sensors on lighting.
- Install energy-saving device such as Savawatt on fridges or other commercial appliances.
- Installing a smart meter, to better measure energy use.

## ***2. Temporary heating solutions, which enable a church or church hall to avoid undertaking a like-for-like oil- or gas-heating replacement, when their heating breaks down:***

- Heated chair cushions \*
- Boiler hire
- Electric heater hire or purchase \*

It is expected these temporary solutions will last for not more than one year, whilst the church makes plans, seeks advice, applies for faculty, and fundraises. At the end of the temporary period, once the church has installed its permanent heating solution, the diocese has the right to ask for items which have been purchased to become the property of the diocese, in order that they can be lent to other churches.

## ***3. Electrical upgrades to enable direct electric heating, heat pumps, or solar panels***

- Upgrades to the electrical system, to enable a church or church hall to move away from oil or gas heating, or to substantially reduce their use of existing oil or gas heating.

## ***4. Other***

- Heated chair cushions, which either replace or significantly reduce the use of oil and gas fired space heating \*.
- Solar PV, where a church can demonstrate it has completed all other measures to transition to net zero carbon, and so this is the next step
- Works not listed above but which have been confirmed as being eligible by the Diocese.

\* If interiors are of historic, architectural, or artistic interest, professional & DAC advice must be sought before these steps are taken. If they could disturb bats, advice must be sought.

## **Other eligible costs**

VAT (for unlisted churches and work to listed churches which falls outside the eligibility of the Listed Places of Worship (LPW) grant scheme). It will be assumed that PCCs will apply to the LPW grant scheme wherever possible.

**July 2024**