

Net Zero Carbon Quick Wins Eligibility Rules

Eligible buildings

Churches and church halls where activities are taking place in a building owned by part of the Church of England.

Ineligible buildings

Church of England congregations meeting in rented or leased accommodation owned by others.

Cathedrals, schools, housing, and other building types.

Cross-funding of projects with other Building for Mission or Net Zero Carbon grant streams

Cross-funding of projects which meet the requirements of both the Building for Mission Minor Repairs and Improvements Fund and Quick Wins Fund is eligible.

Cross-funding the same project with other NZC grants is generally not eligible;

- For example, a NZC Demonstrator Church is not eligible to use Quick Wins grant funding towards the funds raised for their 50% contribution to stage two capital costs.
- The exception to this is the £3k grant offered following a fully subsidised energy audit. This £3k grant is intended as a contribution to support a church in undertaking the initial steps recommended by the audit. A church is therefore eligible to supplement this £3k grant with an additional Quick Wins grant.

A church which has previously received a grant from the NZC Programme (for example a Give To Go Green match-funding grant) is eligible to subsequently receive a Quick Wins grant for a separate NZC project, where this project was not previously funded, or for NZC works which are the next step in a larger project to support the transition to net zero carbon. It is at the diocese's discretion to determine how best to distribute funds in an equitable manner.

Eligible work

1. Eligible Net Zero Solutions

The building itself:

- A1. Repair to the roof and rainwater goods (e.g. gutters, downpipes)
- A2. Fix any broken windowpanes* and make sure opening windows shut tightly
- A3. Insulate around heating pipes
- A4. Draught-proof the gaps* or put up a door-curtain*.
- A5. Rugs/floor-coverings (with breathable backings) and cushions on/around the pews/chairs.
- B1. Where there is an uninsulated, easy-to access roof void, insulating the loft*.
- B2. Installing a glazed door within your porch or a draught-lobby*.
- B3. Creating one or more smaller (separately heatable) spaces for smaller events.

B4. Fabric wall-hangings or panels, with an air gap behind.

Heating and lighting:

A7. Matching heating settings better to usage *.

A10. Replace lightbulbs with LEDs, where simple replacement is possible.

A11. Replace floodlights with new LED units.

A12. Install a HIVE- or NEST-type heating controller, to better control heating.

A13. If current appliances fail, replace with A+++ appliances.

B5. Learn how the building heats/cool and the link to comfort, by using data loggers.

B6. Improve heating zones and controls.

B7. Install TRVs on radiators in meeting rooms & offices.

B8a. Under-pew electric heaters *.

B8b. Infra-red radiant panel heaters*.

B9. Magnetic sediment "sludge" filter to extend the life of the system.

B10. Thermal and/or motion sensors on lighting.

B11. Install energy-saving device such as Savawatt on fridges or other commercial appliances.

B12. 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:

T1. Heated chair cushions *

T2. Boiler hire

T3. 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 their 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

E1. 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

O1. Heated chair cushions, which either replace or significantly reduce the use of oil and gas fired space heating *.

O2. 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

OX. Works not listed above but which have been confirmed as being eligible by the Diocese in consultation with the Environmental Sustainability Officer at the Church Building Council.

* 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.

5. 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.

General conditions

Relevant faculty or approval under list A or B, as necessary, or any other necessary permission should be in place prior to an application.

Work should not begin until the diocese 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.