

# Net Zero Carbon Quick Wins - Project Eligibility Guide and Grant Conditions

## How much can you apply for?

Projects up to £3000 can be covered in full by this grant.

For projects over £3000, grants will (in addition to the £3000) cover 50% of the excess.

The maximum grant is £10,000 per church/church hall.

Example: If a total project cost is £12000, you can apply for £7500 (£3000 + 50% of £9000)

**Important:** The application deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025 but applications will be reviewed in batches, on a rolling basis, so available funding may run out before this date.

## Eligible buildings

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

## Ineligible:

- CofE 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 2 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 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.

### **Initial list of eligible works** *(Advice should be sought from DAC as usual)*

#### **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/cools 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

**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, under the change control process below. These works will be added to the central list.

*\*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.

## 6. Change Control Process

For works under section 4 (OX), dioceses will be asked to submit a change request by email to [nzcgrants@churchofengland.org](mailto:nzcgrants@churchofengland.org).

The Environmental Sustainability Officer in CCB will review the request and

- if minor, approves it and asks that it be added to the tracking spreadsheet at the next update
- if major, takes it to the next meeting of the Project Board for decision.
- if unclear on minor / major, the decision will be referred to the NZC Programme Director.

## Net Zero Carbon Quick Wins Grant Conditions

Grants are offered subject to the following standard conditions:

- The offer of a grant from the fund does not remove the requirement for the PCC to obtain faculty or approval under list 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 must not begin until the diocese has approved the scope, methodology and estimated costs of the work and made an offer in writing which the PCC has accepted with the signature of two members, including the treasurer.
- Work carried out before a grant is offered is ineligible.
- 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. Details of the procurement exercise carried out, listing all quotes or tenders received and a note of any contractors who declined to quote should be submitted.
- Work will need to be carried out, paid for and claimed by 31 December 2025.
- The diocese reserves the right to cancel grants towards projects not implemented within the timescale above.

- Grants are a restricted fund item for the purposes of PCC accounting and must be spent on the agreed work. The diocese reserves the right to claw back the grant if the work undertaken is not the work for which the grant was approved and/or any work or activity is removed from the project (and the diocese has not been informed in advance and approved any such change).
- The diocese reserves the right to withhold or recover the grant in part or in full if the work is not carried out in accordance with the agreed method statement or specification.
- Should the cost of the agreed work prove higher than estimated or quoted, the diocese is under no obligation to increase the grant, though it may do so at its own discretion.
- Grant recipients should retain relevant documentation relating to the grant and the work carried out for at least six years after the work is completed. The work should be recorded in the logbook. Documentation, including photographs, should be made available to the diocese on request.
- The diocese reserves the right to publicise the grant and the project and to use relevant information in case studies, monitoring reports etc as it sees fit.
- The grant recipient is encouraged to acknowledge the grant in any parish magazine, relevant publicity or annual report. For formal reporting purposes, the grant donor should be recorded as the Archbishops' Council and the scheme identified as the Net Zero Carbon Quick Wins Grants Fund



Diocese of *Rochester*  
called together