



A short guide to net zero carbon grants

Apply now for grants to help kickstart your local net zero carbon plans

Dioceses and parishes can now begin to submit applications for the first block of grants and schemes to help churches, cathedrals, schools and clergy housing to achieve net zero carbon* by 2030.

The Church of England's Net Zero Carbon Programme aims to equip, resource and support all parts of the Church to tackle climate change by reducing the carbon emissions arising from the energy used in our buildings, schools and through work-related travel by 2030.

This guide is aimed at giving you an overview of the projects on offer at this time. For full details, visit our [Net Zero Carbon Grants Hub](#).



Net zero carbon projects for churches

Parish Buying Energy Audit and Action Plans

£2m is available for fully and partially funded energy audit and action plans through the Church of England's buying service Parish Buying. The energy audit and action plans will identify the changes needed to reduce carbon emissions. Small funds will be available to help kickstart some immediate actions.

Who's it for?

600 of the highest energy use churches will receive fully-funded energy audit and action plans, with up to £3k funding per church available for subsequent carbon reduction projects.

A further 1000 partially-funded energy audit and action plans will be available to churches in the highest top 20 per cent of energy users or those with heating reaching its end of life and/or on oil heating.

What do I need to do?

Dioceses will be asked to confirm a list of eligible churches in December 2023 and eligible churches will be able to book fully-funded audit and action plans in early 2024.



The hope for the future is that we can do this, but we must start now.

Rachel Keil, St Cuthbert's Church, Diocese of Liverpool

Demonstrator Churches Project

£3.8m available for funding and technical support to 70 churches across the country. The aim of the project is to create a network of exemplar churches which demonstrate good net zero carbon practice across churches of different types for others to learn from.

Who's it for?

Churches nominated by their diocesan DACs can apply for two grants:

- either a Stage 1 Preparatory Grant towards the professional support they need to progress an already fairly well-developed project, plus hands-on fundraising support from specialists Action Planning,
- or a Stage 2 Capital Grant for up to 25 per cent of the costs of a well-developed project for which they have already secured any necessary permissions and have raised 50 per cent of the funding.

What do I need to do?

A selection of the churches nominated by diocesan DACs in September will be invited to apply before the end of 2023.

DACs, working with Archdeacons and Diocesan Environment Officers, will be able to nominate a further shortlist of suitable churches in a second round by March 2024. A selection of these shortlisted churches will then be invited to apply by the national team.

Net zero carbon projects for churches

Quick Wins project

£2.4m available to help churches across the country progress with small scale decarbonisation projects. Grants could help churches to buy new LED lighting, pew heaters, insulation or update their electric supply.

Who's it for?

Funds will be given to dioceses to enable them to give grants to churches and church halls, typically £2.5k (max £10k) for small net zero improvements aligned to the Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon for Churches, temporary/flexible heating solutions, or electrical upgrades.

What do I need to do?

An email will be sent to Diocesan Secretaries inviting them to confirm that they wish to receive the funding. Dioceses will need to communicate locally how this funding will be allocated and report back on progress to the National Net Zero Programme. Dioceses will be invited to receive funds from January 2024.



Pilot and Evaluation Fund

£250k available to fund 8-12 pilot and evaluation projects per year, with the aim of supporting technical, innovative projects.

Who's it for?

Churches, church halls, cathedrals, schools, housing, offices or transport solutions where the trialling of new technology to help reduce carbon emissions, or explore new ways to use legislative powers to further net zero plans, could have wider application across the Church.

What do I need to do?

If you have a project idea, you can now email nzcprogramme@churchofengland.org and we will be in touch to discuss further.



Net zero carbon projects for schools

Core Schools programme

£1.5m is being made available to fund work to help understand how to fully decarbonise selected demonstrator school sites; help selected schools pay for heat decarbonisation plans; support schools with public sector bid writing and provide 10 per cent capital liability support for Voluntary Aided schools.

Who's it for?

150 highest priority school sites identified through national data analysis, with up to 100 of these schools receiving free decarbonisation plans and 40 schools to receive support in writing public sector decarbonisation bids.

Voluntary Aided schools who are successful in public sector bids will get 10 per cent capital liability funding.

What do I need to do?

Briefings on the National Framework for Schools have already been given to Diocesan Boards of Education. Schools prioritised for support will be contacted directly over the coming months.

Did you know?

Schools can also apply for the Pilot and Evaluation Fund, details on Page 4 of this document.



Other net zero carbon projects coming soon...



Give To Go Green (parish match-funding campaign)

£1.5m has been allocated to run pilot match-funding campaigns in seven dioceses to support small to medium carbon reduction projects. Churches will run short fundraising campaigns through the digital platform Give A Little to raise money for local carbon reducing projects.

Who's it for?

In 2024, churches in Exeter and Leeds will be supported and five more dioceses will follow later in the year. The amount they raise will be matched by the Net Zero Carbon Programme.

Fundraising webinars and in-person workshops

Top tips and advice from fundraising experts to help parishes raise money for local net zero carbon projects. Look out for more information through emails and on our [website](#).

Cathedrals Pathway to Net Zero

£600k has been allocated to carry out technical surveys and concept design reports on all cathedrals in England.

Who's it for?

For all cathedrals in the country which have an A Rocha Eco Church bronze award and who have identified either a member of staff or Chapter, who will act as a champion for decarbonisation.

Future plans

Some funding has also been allocated for Cathedrals Quick Wins and Demonstrator Projects. Look out for more information in 2024.

Clergy Housing and See Houses

£180k has been allocated to undertake extensive survey work on selected Church of England properties across the country which represent various housing types and uses. £150k has also been allocated for survey work on See Houses.

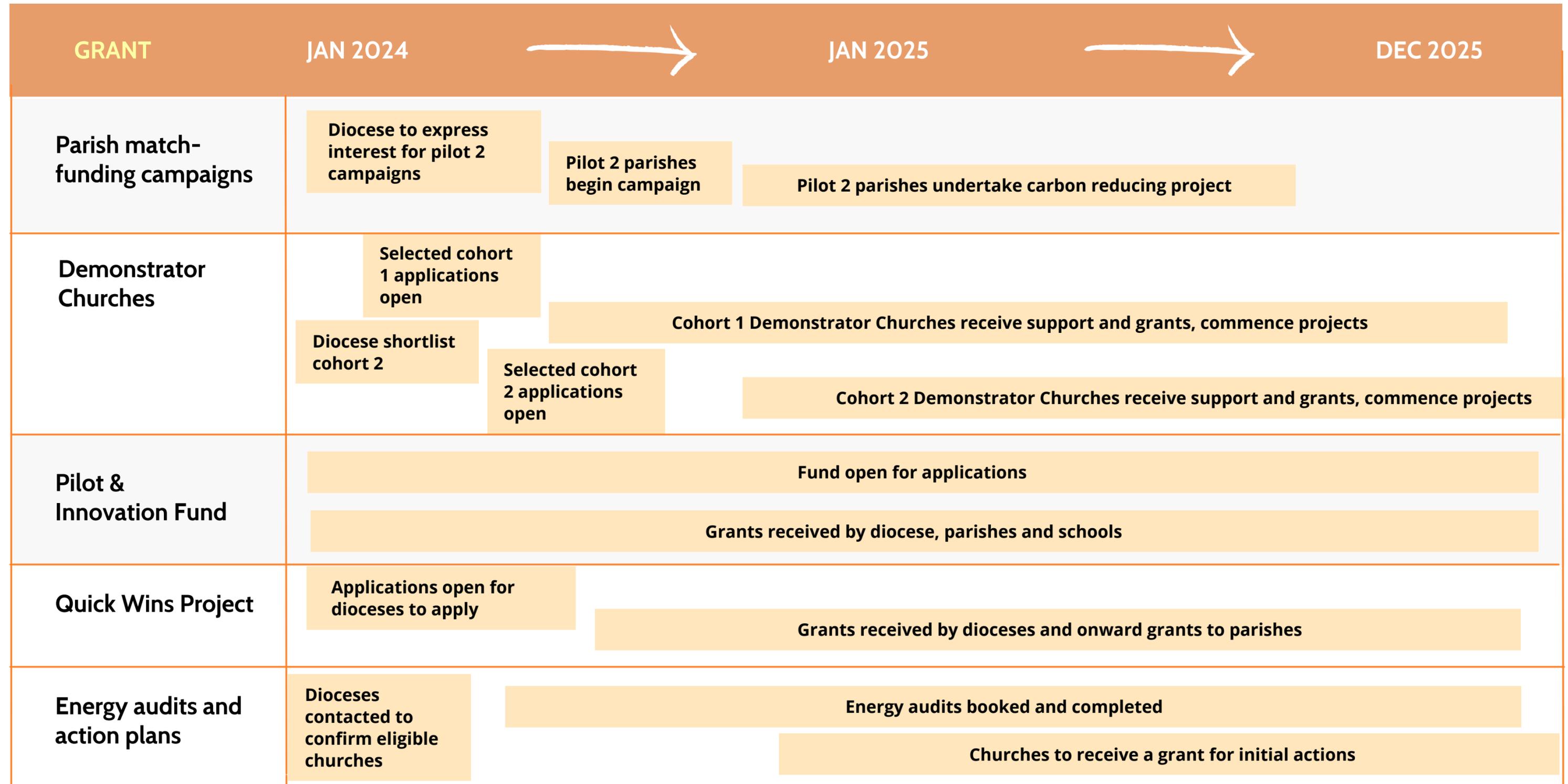
Who's it for?

Birmingham, Exeter, Portsmouth and Sheffield dioceses have worked with the Pensions Board on these surveys. The surveys to a selection of See Houses are yet to be carried out.

Future plans

Funding has been allocated for decarbonisation projects in clergy housing and the scope of this will be informed by the survey work. Look out for more information in 2024.

When to apply for grants



Find out more



Net Zero Carbon Grants Hub

(You will need an enrolment key code to access the Grants Hub for the first time, please email the Net Zero Carbon Programme team for more details.)



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