

## Useful Information

Net zero can be off-putting or daunting to many people and with many myths and misinformation circulating it can also be confusing. But reaching net zero carbon is only a small fraction of what is meant to be championing climate justice. You will notice that the checklist overleaf does not include any changes to the way you heat a church. That is because climate justice is much more than just our buildings. Most of what we can do to reduce our carbon footprint is about changing our behaviour, and how we think and act in relation to the environment. No one expects to be carbon neutral overnight; it is also not a solitary act, and we must act together. Reducing our impact on the planet and improving creation care is a journey.

There are many myths around net zero. For example, the diocese does not have a blanket ban on the installation of oil and gas boilers. Equally there is no requirement to install electric heating. When a faculty is made you must seriously consider the alternatives and have a reasonable plan to work towards net zero. Another piece of misinformation is that people heating is detrimental to a historic building. In fact, many of our church buildings existed for hundreds of years without a heating system. In fact, hot air holds more moisture than cold, which is why we use it to dry objects. The key is to avoid rapid changes of temperature, and to ensure the building is kept dry and adequately vented.

Below are couple of QR codes to get you started on your creation care journey. Have a look at the diocese's webpage [salisbury.anglican.org/environment](https://salisbury.anglican.org/environment) for more information

Eco Champion Network: <https://bit.ly/eco-champions>

Eco Church: <https://bit.ly/arocha-ecochurch>



## Net Zero Carbon Action Plan Checklist

### First Steps

<input type="checkbox"/>	Fill out the Energy Footprint Tool.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Register for Eco Church.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nominate an Eco Champion/Lead.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Connect and engage with local environment groups.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Connect with other churches on the net zero journey
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have 'environment' as a standing point on PCC agenda.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Download and work through practical path to net zero.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Switch to 100% renewable electricity and 'green gas'.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure gutters are regularly cleared and working.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete outstanding maintenance tasks, focusing on roofs, windows, and pointing*.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduce draughts from doors* etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure the heating system is serviced regularly and you know when the end of service life is.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure heating settings and controls are optimised and updated*.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consider insulated pew cushions and floor coverings between pews*.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Replace Lightbulbs and floodlights to LED units.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consider ways of reducing energy through behaviour.
<input type="checkbox"/>	For medium to larger churches consider an Energy Audit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Start exploring low carbon heating solutions.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Develop a Net Zero Carbon Action Plan for your church
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consider ways biodiversity can be improved in the churchyard

\*Please note maintenance tasks and adaptations may need permission through the faculty process. Please speak to the Church Buildings Team if in doubt.

## Q&A

**Q: The UK emits a tiny fraction of carbon compared to China or the USA, our church reducing its emissions isn't going to make a difference. Why should we bother?**

A: Creation care is integral to Christian Mission and is a vocational calling for all Christians, rather than being a specialism<sup>1</sup>. We are all called to action EVERYDAY to reduce our impact on the climate, champion climate justice and care for God's creation, however small that is.

**Q: The government has a net zero target for 2050 and has just extended a ban gas boilers. Why is the Church of England still sticking to 2030?**

A: The 2030 target is hugely ambitious. Every month or year that we delay [...] will lead to suffering and even death for our human neighbours and the rest of God's creation. It is thus a matter of justice that we act now and is a key part of our obedience to God's call to care for creation that the transition to net zero carbon takes place as rapidly as possible<sup>2</sup>.

**Q: Our church is not in the top 20% of most emitting churches, does net zero 2030 still apply to us?**

A: Whilst the Diocesan Action Plan focuses on the top 20%, the combined emissions of Salisbury's small and medium churches far exceed that. Even if you consider yourself to be a small or medium church there are still things you can do to reduce your emissions. Most of these things do not involve changing your heating system. For more information please see the Church of England's web page practical path to net zero.

**Q: What if reaching Net Zero Carbon by 2030 is too expensive for our church?**

A: We understand that making changes to a historic building can be expensive and funding is extremely limited. Reaching net zero is also not going to be achieved overnight. However, it is still worth having a realistic and viable plan to achieve it. Having a plan means a church can take advantage of opportunities that arise, they can engage in fundraising and awareness, and generate support in the local community. It also means you are more prepared if your heating system breaks down.

**Q: Our boiler has broken suddenly, and we need heating, what should we do?**

A: It can be tempting to simply replace the boiler on a like-for-like basis. To help avoid this the Chancellor has agreed to allow temporary heating solutions to be installed under a List B application. This means that you can quickly provide heating during the colder months whilst you explore ways the heating can be improved and the alternatives.

**Q: Heating the people not the building will surely damage the fabric of the building?**

A: This is a myth. Most churches were in existence hundreds of years before heating was introduced. In fact, hot air holds more moisture than cold, which is why we use it to dry objects. The key is to avoid rapid changes of temperature, and to ensure the building is kept dry and adequately vented. You may however need to take special care if you have particularly sensitive or historic objects in your church. Please speak to the Church Buildings Team if in doubt.

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<sup>1</sup> Written by the Revd Mike Perry, Chair of A Rocha UK. The full document can be found in the Diocesan Action Plan.

<sup>2</sup> From the Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Revd Graham Usher, Lead Bishop for the Environment, and the Bishop of Selby, the Rt Revd Dr John Thomson. [Routemap to Net Zero Carbon](#).