

Notes from Church of England briefing webinar on faculty changes 24th May 2022

Work to revise the faculty rules was undertaken at the initiative of the new Dean of the Arches in order to show the Church's clarity of commitment to moving to net zero carbon emissions by 2030. There was a desire to adjust the rules in order to make the path to net zero easier but also to encourage churches to seek advice when that would be most helpful. Changes to the rules mean that there will be careful consideration of matters that will have carbon emissions past 2030.

An audit of the Church's carbon emissions across all of its buildings (churches, schools, homes, offices, etc) was conducted. This showed that larger churches and urban churches have a larger carbon footprint than smaller and rural churches. Larger churches, with more people, will in most instances have a greater likelihood of being able to make changes to reduce carbon. There are a number of actions, some very inexpensive, that can be taken to reduce carbon (e.g. switch to a renewable energy tariff, install LED lamps, and adjust heating controls and settings; churches are encouraged to look at these steps in the first instance.

The changes to the faculty rules from 1st July 2022:

- There is a requirement for 'due regard' of net zero carbon guidance. ([Extensive guidance](#) is available on the ChurchCare website grouped together in one place, along with the [Practical Path to Net Zero](#) checklist for churches).
- List A additions include:
 - Draught proofing of doors and windows
 - Pipework insulation
 - Modest changes to soft furnishings
- List B changes & additions include:
 - Low energy light fittings
 - Pew heaters
 - Digging cable trenches
 - Solar panels (for a church that is unlisted and not in a conservation area)
- Changes to faculty rules have also been made for:
 - Electric vehicle charging points
 - Consideration of installation of insulation with roof replacement
 - Replacement of a fossil fuel boiler will require a full faculty application and an options appraisal

A [recording of the webinar](#) will be made available on the ChurchCare website.

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