

Diocese of Derby DAC

Guidance for Church Heating Applications

The Diocese of Derby has declared a climate emergency and its support for the milestones outlined within the Church of England Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030. The Diocese has created its own Net Zero Action Plan and has called on parishes to continue their positive work and form their own plans consistent with the Diocesan intention.

Changes to the Faculty Jurisdiction Rules in 2022 require any relevant Faculty proposals to have due regard for the [Church Buildings Council's advice on Net Zero Carbon](#). For most churches, the heating system makes the largest contribution to the overall carbon footprint of the building. When considering any application for a church heating system, the DAC will consider whether the PCC has shown due regard for the Net Zero guidance. This guidance has been produced to assist PCCs in understanding what that requirement means for them.

Before submitting a Faculty application

All churches should be aware of the Net Zero Carbon target of 2030 and be considering how they can reduce their carbon, including the means by which the church is heated.

The Church of England has produced significant resources to help churches take steps to reduce carbon and to consider low carbon heating options:

- Completing the [Practical Path to Net Zero](#) is a good place to start
- There are [case studies](#) of churches from around the country who have implemented different solutions, including a variety of heating systems
- These webinar recordings on specific topics could help you get started:
 - [Choosing the Best Heating Solution for Your Church](#)
 - [The Basics of Heat Pumps](#)
 - [Church Solar Panels](#)
 - Links to the full suite of Environmental [webinars](#)
- ChurchCare Heating [guidance](#) including principles and information on different approaches and technology:
 - The [Heating Checklist](#) is particularly helpful, with questions to work through as you consider your church's use and its heating needs

Spend time considering the '5 Ws':

- Who/what are you heating? 'Heat the people' or heat the whole building?
- What types of events are held in church?
- When and for how long?
- Which parts of the building need to be heated for those events?
- Which parts of your building's interior may need special care? (eg highly significant building features or contents)

With the guidance of your church architect, engage a Building Services Engineer to assess your church and look at the suitability of different heating systems for your church.

Complete the Energy Footprint Tool- email netzero@derby.anglican.org for details on this.

Get an Energy Audit- email netzero@derby.anglican.org for details on this.

Create a Decarbonisation Plan for your church- email netzero@derby.anglican.org for details on this.

Explore [funding](#) that may be available for your church heating project.

Support for Faculty application

In order to consider your Faculty application for a heating system, the DAC will require information to be submitted in support of the application that shows that the church has had due regard for the Net Zero guidance. This will include:

- Completed [Practical Path to Net Zero](#) checklist
- Options Appraisal showing evidence of systems that have been considered by the PCC and why the proposed option was selected from among the available options. This should include information on the relative costs of different systems that were explored.
 - In undertaking the Options Appraisal, start with what the ideal carbon Net Zero option would look like for your situation. Ignore cost and practicality in the first instance and focus purely on what would be the most efficient means of providing heat for your intended activity/activities. Remember that the ideal solution may involve more than one way of providing heat, in different locations, depending on what you are doing and where.
 - Once you have your ideal solution, you can then start to work through the practicalities of achieving this.
 - There is an [Options Appraisal](#) template from ChurchCare.
 - The Denby St Mary the Virgin Options Appraisal is an example of good practice and is available for other churches to use as a model.
 - Your Options Appraisal should respond to the '5 Ws' questions
 - Your Options Appraisal should include the PCC's responses to these questions:
 - *What were the key pieces of information you learned from the CBC's Net Zero guidance?*
 - *What is your PCC's plan to move towards Net Zero Carbon?*
 - *How does the current proposal move towards the Net Zero Plan?*
- In some circumstances (eg major churches, high use churches), the DAC may also ask for a completed [Heating Checklist](#).