THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Environment Programme

Net Zero Carbon Quick Wins Grant Fund

2026-29 Quick Wins Grant Fund Eligibility Guide[1]

All dioceses are eligible, including Sodor & Man and Europe, but excluding the Channel Islands where church repairs are funded through other routes.

Eligible buildings

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

Ineligible buildings

- CofE congregations meeting in rented or leased accommodation owned by others.
- Buildings for which the most recent Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) submission has not been completed[2].
- Buildings not registered with A Rocha's Eco Church scheme (ideally, they have a bronze award).
- Cathedrals, schools, housing, and other building types.

Cross-funding of projects with other Building for Mission or Net Zero Carbon grant streams

- Cross-funding[3] of projects which meet the requirements of both the Building for Mission Minor Repairs and Improvements (MR&I) Fund[4] and Quick Wins Fund is eligible. However, where this is the case, PCCs should demonstrate in their application to the Quick Wins fund that the spirit of their proposals aligns with the Church of England aspirations to move towards net zero and fit within part of a wider PCC plan of works to reduce carbon emission in their buildings.
- Double funding[5] is not permitted.
- Cross-funding the same project with other grants from the Church of England NZC Programme 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.
    - Likewise, a project accepted into the Decarbonising Church Grant Fund (DCGF) is not eligible to use Quick Wins towards the costs of project not funded by the DCGF.
    - The exception to this is the £3k grant offered following a fully subsidised 'Parish Buying' 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 (E.g. Give To Go Green, or a Quick Wins grant in the previous 2023-2025 triennium) is eligible to subsequently receive a Quick Wins grant for a separate project in the 2026-2028 triennium if this project was not previously funded, or for NZC works which are the next step in a larger project to support the transition to NZC. It is at the Diocese's discretion to determine how best to distribute Quick Wins funds in an equitable manner, but it is generally expected that specific church building will only receive one Quick Wins grant during the 2026-28 triennium, even if they apply for separate projects.

Max grant size to an individual project: £10,000

---

[1] The Quick Wins Eligibility Criteria are broadly similar to the criteria for Give to Go Green, with some intentional differences, especially with regard to temporary heating solutions.

[2] Except for buildings in the Diocese of Europe which must complete the Climate Stewards 360° carbon tool instead.

[3] Cross funding refers to when different funding streams contribute to a single project to help meet the budget needs.

[4] The guidance for the MR&I grants will be updated soon. Some projects might no longer be appropriate to cross-fund.

[5] Double funding refers to when the same cost item is funded twice by different funding streams, while in fact, only one of them was needed to cover the cost of that item.

Eligible works

Relevant statutory permissions, for example Faculty (or list A or B permission as appropriate) and/or any other statutory permission must be obtained and a grant offer does not confer such permission or obviate the need for consultation.

If interiors are of historic, architectural, conservation and/or artistic interest, professional & DAC advice must be sought before grant funded works are undertaken.

Advice must be sought in connection with any project that could disturb bats.

Insultation and draft proofing

Generally, works that help reduce energy consumption and/or enable areas to be maintained at comfortable temperatures are eligible. Such works include:

- Insulating loft roofs and loft spaces where there is an uninsulated, easy-to access void.
- Insulating around heating pipes.
- Draught-proofing doors and windows, including putting up a door-curtain.
- Installing a secondary door / porch to reduce heat loss at an entrance to a church.
- Laying rugs/floor-coverings (appropriately breathable) or fabric wall-hangings or panels (with an air gap behind) if these are designed primarily to improve insultation to improve comfort and/or reduce carbon emissions.

Lighting

Work that significantly reduces gross carbon emissions (as measured by the Energy Footprint Tool) associated with lighting will be eligible, in particular:

- Replacing lights with LEDs. This can include replacing light fittings if they are not LED compatible.
- Installing thermal and/or motion sensors on lighting.

Heating controls (including zoning)

Work that enables better monitoring and control of heating, including:

- Creating one or more smaller (separately heatable) spaces for smaller events.
- Matching heating settings better to usage.
- Installing a HIVE- or NEST-type heating controller, to better control heating.
- Improving heating zones and controls.
- Installing TRVs on radiators in meeting rooms & offices.
- Installing energy-saving devices such as Savawatt on fridges or other appliances.
- Installing a smart meter, to better measure energy use.

Efforts to reduce or eliminate use of oil or gas for heating

This can include supporting towards the costs of installation of electric powered appliances such as:

- Under-pew electric heaters.
- Infra-red radiant panels and/or halo heaters.
- Heat pumps.
- Heated chair cushions.

… which either replace or significantly reduce the use of oil and gas-fired space heating.

Further eligible works could include replacing gas cookers with electric, and installing ‘point of use’ electric water heaters for sinks which avoid the need to heat tap water with gas/oil.

Destratification fans will not generally be eligible unless there is clear evidence demonstrating that in the specific building, they will significantly reduce energy consumption / reduce carbon emissions as part of a wider plan to move towards net zero.

Electrical upgrades

Work that enables a move towards direct electric heating approaches such as upgrades to the electrical system and/or supply serving the property, to enable a church or church hall to move away from oil or gas heating, or to substantial reduce their use of existing oil or gas heating

Temporary heating solutions

Works that enable a church or church hall to avoid undertaking a like-for-like oil or gas-heating replacement, when all the following specific circumstances occur:

- The fossil fuel heating system has failed.
- It is an emergency situation.
- No other temporary heating solution is available

Eligible costs under the Quick Wins fund:

- Boiler hire.
- Electric heater hire or purchase.
- Heated chair cushions.

It is expected these temporary solutions will last for no more than one year, whilst the church makes plans, seeks advice, applies for faculty, and fundraises for a permanent low carbon alternative.

In these circumstances, temporary heating appliances should ideally be owned by the diocese so that, at the end of the temporary period, once the church has installed their permanent heating solution, the diocese can then make the appliances available to other parishes.

Work that helps address ingress of damp

Repairs to roofs and rainwater goods (e.g. gutters, downpipes) can be considered eligible if:

- They do not constitute work that would normally be considered as routine maintenance.
- Align with the spirit of the Church of England to move towards net zero and genuinely fit within part of a wider PCC plan of works to reduce carbon emission in their buildings.

Solar PV systems

Quick Wins support towards Solar PV systems will be eligible only when PV systems are part of a wider PCC plan which prioritises actions to decarbonise their buildings. A genuine commitment to decarbonise (with some other measures to transition to net zero carbon already completed) must be clearly evident before Quick Wins support for a PV system is considered.

VAT

It will be assumed that whenever reasonably possible, PCCs will take advantage of schemes for reclaiming VAT, or take advantage of schemes that allow reduced rates of VAT. Accordingly, the Quick Wins fund will only contribute to VAT costs when such costs could not have reasonably been reclaimed or reduced through other scheme(s).

Ineligible Works

Non-capital works are generally ineligible unless they are a legal requirement of an eligible capital project (eg certification of electrical works).