



# Quick Wins Grant Fund (2026-2028)

## Guidance for Applicants

### 1. About the Fund

The Quick Wins Grant Fund is part of the Church of England's Net Zero Carbon Programme and provides financial support to churches and church halls undertaking projects that contribute to the Church of England's journey towards Net Zero Carbon. It offers grants of up to £5,000 to support practical improvements that reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency and support the sustainable use and mission of church buildings.

### 2. Before you apply

To be eligible for funding:

- The building must be a Church of England church or church hall within the Diocese of Exeter that is owned by part of the Church of England. Applications cannot be made for cathedrals, schools, housing or buildings that are rented or leased from another organisation.
- The parish must be fully up to date with Common Fund payments.
- The church must be registered with A Rocha's Eco Church scheme and have completed at least the Bronze level award (or be actively working towards the Bronze level and have received the Bronze award before claiming the Quick Wins monies).
- The building's most recent Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) return must have been completed. This will have been completed in 2026 covering 2025 energy usage.

### 3. Eligible projects

The types of projects eligible for funding are:

- Insulation and draught proofing
- Lighting
- Heating controls (including zoning)
- Efforts to reduce or eliminate use of oil or gas for heating
- Electrical upgrades to enable electric heating

- Temporary heating solutions
- Works that help address ingress of damp (beyond routine maintenance and as part of a wider PCC plan to reduce carbon emissions in the building)
- Solar PV (as part of a wider PCC plan to reduce carbon emissions in the building, with some measures already completed)

A fuller explanation of these categories is available in the [Quick Wins Eligibility Guide \(PDF\)](#).

The Fund will not normally support non-capital works, unless they are a legal requirement of an eligible capital project.

#### **4. Eligible costs**

The maximum grant that can be requested is £5,000.

The Fund cannot be used to pay for works that have already taken place.

Projects may be supported by more than one funding source where this is permitted under the relevant schemes. However, the same cost cannot be funded twice. Applicants should declare on the application form any other funding that has been received or applied for in relation to the project.

Applicants are expected to make use of any opportunities to reclaim or reduce VAT where available. Quick Wins funding will normally only contribute towards VAT costs that cannot reasonably be reclaimed or reduced through another scheme.

#### **5. Planning your project**

Before making an application, parishes should be confident that they meet all the eligibility criteria (see sections 2-4) and the proposed project can be completed within 12 months of receiving a grant offer.

To ensure that projects can progress smoothly if funding is awarded, parishes are encouraged to undertake the following steps ahead of submitting a grant application:

- Seek informal advice from the DAC regarding the proposed works and any permissions that may be required
- Confirm that the application is supported by the relevant Archdeacon

All applications must be accompanied by at least one quotation for the cost of the proposed works. For works costing over £1,000, a minimum of two quotations will need to be provided to demonstrate value for money. If you require any assistance in finding contractors, the [Church Buildings Office](#) may be able to supply names (although they are unable to make recommendations and responsibility for engaging a contractor and subsequent liabilities remain with the parish).

## 6. Making an application

To apply for a Quick Wins Grant, please complete the [online application form](#). You will need to complete this in one sitting, so the full set of questions is provided at the end of this document (section 11) to enable you to draft responses ahead of completing the online form.

Following completion of the online application form, please email the quotation(s) for the works and any additional supporting material to [eco@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:eco@exeter.anglican.org).

You can apply at any time before 31 March 2029.

Applications are assessed quarterly by the Diocese of Exeter's Environment Working Group. The application deadline to be considered at the relevant Grant Panel meeting is listed below.

|      |            |
|------|------------|
| 2026 | 9 November |
| 2027 | tbc        |
| 2028 | tbc        |

## 7. Assessment of applications

On receipt, your application will be validated by the Creation Care and Net Zero team to check for eligibility and ensure that all the material is present for the Grant Panel to reach an informed decision. If there is anything missing, or clarification is required on an aspect of your application, a member of the team will contact you.

To ensure as wide distribution and benefit as possible, Quick Wins 2026-2028 grants will be prioritised for churches that were not the recipient of a Quick Wins grant in the previous triennium (2023-2025).

The strongest applications demonstrate:

- How the proposed project forms part of your church's wider journey towards Net Zero Carbon, with a clear contribution towards reducing energy use, carbon emissions or reliance on fossil fuels. (Where possible, please include the estimated impact of the works on your building's annual energy consumption or carbon emissions.)
- A carefully considered project that addresses a specific and urgent need.
- The parish is able to oversee the project and work can be completed within 12 months of a grant offer.
- Proportionate impact for the size of the grant requested.
- Clear benefits for the church's ministry, mission and wider community.
- Whether the proposed project has the potential to inspire or inform similar projects within the Diocese.

## **8. Decision**

You will be notified by the Creation Care and Net Zero team when a decision has been made on your application. This is likely to be around six weeks after the application deadline.

If you are successful, you will be sent an offer letter and grant agreement, which you will be asked to sign as a condition of receiving the grant.

## **9. Payment and project completion**

In most cases, the grant payment will be made on completion of the work. The grant claim and supporting receipts/invoices should be submitted to [eco@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:eco@exeter.anglican.org) within 28 days of completion of the work. Where the PCC can demonstrate a cash shortfall, it may be possible to receive a proportion of the grant upfront once the PCC has signed a contract or otherwise agreed terms for the work with a contractor.

On completion of the project, parishes will be encouraged to provide information and photos for short case studies that can be shared with other churches and used to inform future decision-making by the Grant Panel. In some situations, this may be supplemented with a site visit by the Grant Panel and/or interested parishes to view the completed works.

## **10. Further information**

The [Practical Path to Net Zero for Churches \(PDF\)](#) is a useful resource that lists potential measures to save energy and reduce carbon.

A summary of other grants available through the national Net Zero Carbon Programme is available here: <https://exeter.anglican.org/environment/net-zero-grants/>

If you are considering a project and are unsure whether it may be eligible for the Quick Wins Grant Fund, please contact Emma Kemp, Net Zero Carbon Officer, before submitting an application. Email: [emma.kemp@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:emma.kemp@exeter.anglican.org) | Mobile: 07506 048671

## **11. Application form questions for reference**

The questions from the online application form are copied here for reference to enable you to draft your application – please submit your responses in the [online application form](#).

Please note that question 10 is for solar PV projects only, and questions 11-12 are for temporary heating projects only.

# Quick Wins Grant Fund application form: Diocese of Exeter

This grant is part of the Church of England's Net Zero Carbon Programme and offers grants of up to £5,000 to support practical improvements that reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency and support the sustainable use and mission of church buildings.

By submitting this form you are agreeing to your contact details being used by the Diocese of Exeter to administer the Quick Wins Grant Fund. The full privacy notice can be found here: <https://exeter.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/EDBF-Privacy-Notice-October-2024.pdf>

## Church and applicant details

1. Parish \*

2. Church \*

3. Building \*

4. Contact name \*

5. Role/position \*

6. Email address \*

Please enter an email

7. Telephone number \*

Enter your answer

8. Please confirm whether you meet these four essential criteria:

- The building is a Church of England church or church hall within the Diocese of Exeter.
- The parish is fully up to date with Common Fund payments.
- The latest Energy Footprint Tool submission has been completed for the relevant building. (This will have been completed in 2026 covering 2025 energy usage.)
- The church is registered with A Rocha Eco Church Awards and has a minimum of the Bronze award (or is actively working towards the Bronze award and will be awarded before claiming the Quick Wins grant).

\*

If your church doesn't meet all four of the above criteria, you will be unable to proceed any further with the application and will automatically be taken to the end of the application form.

- ☐ Yes - the church meets all four criteria
- ☐ No - the church doesn't meet all four criteria

## Project details

9. What are you applying for funding for? \*

- ☐ Insulation and draught-proofing
- ☐ Lighting
- ☐ Heating controls/zoning
- ☐ Efforts to reduce or eliminate use of oil or gas for heating
- ☐ Electrical upgrades (to enable electrical heating)
- ☐ Temporary heating solution
- ☐ Work that helps address ingress of damp
- ☐ Solar PV system
- ☐ Other (e.g. a combination of these measures)

10. What energy-efficiency or decarbonisation measures have already been completed that demonstrate Solar PV is part of a wider net zero carbon plan?

11. Please confirm whether these three statements apply to your building's heating:

- the existing fossil fuel heating system has failed
- this is an emergency situation
- no other temporary solution is available

You will only be able to proceed with your application for a temporary heating project if all three of these statements apply to your building. If fewer than all three statements apply to your situation, you will be unable to proceed any further with the application and will automatically be taken to the end of the application form.

- ☐ Yes - all three statements apply
- ☐ No - not all three statements apply

12. When did the existing fossil fuel heating system fail?

13. Briefly describe the proposed works that you are requesting funding for and arrangements for overseeing them. \*

14. Why are these works needed? \*

Please explain:

- the issue being addressed
- how the need was identified (e.g. through a professional energy audit or quinquennial inspection)
- why the work is needed now
- the impact on the church/community if not undertaken
- how the work supports ministry, mission opportunities and furthers local community engagement

## Net zero carbon impact

15. How will these works help your church to reduce carbon emissions and move towards net zero carbon? \*

Please explain:

- how they will help to reduce energy usage and/or decrease reliance on oil and gas
- how they fit within your wider net zero and creation care plans

16. What is the predicted annual impact of the works on energy consumption and carbon emissions, if known?

17. The experiences of churches undertaking practical steps towards net zero carbon are invaluable in helping other parishes develop their own plans and projects. If awarded a grant, how would your church be willing to share learning from this project with other parishes? \*

## Funding & finance

18. Total cost of works (£) \*

The value must be a number

19. Grant amount requested (£) \*

Please enter a number less than or equal to 5000

20. Amount funded by PCC or other fundraising (£) \*

The value must be a number

21. Have you applied for, or do you intend to apply for, other grants for these works? \*

☐ Yes

☐ No

22. Unrestricted funds held by PCC (£) \*

The value must be a number

23. Restricted funds held by PCC (£) \*

The value must be a number

24. Please explain any financial circumstances which make external funding necessary for these works.

## Project readiness

25. Is this grant application supported by your Archdeacon? \*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ They haven't been consulted

26. Date Archdeacon's support was given



27. Have you sought informal advice from the DAC regarding the proposed works? \*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

28. Date DAC advice was received



29. Which, if any, of the following will be required?

- ☐ Faculty permission
- ☐ List B permission
- ☐ Bat advice / survey

30. When is the work expected to start? \*



31. When is the work expected to finish? \*



## Declaration

32. Please confirm: \*

- ☐ The PCC has legal responsibility for the church and/or church hall building that the proposed works will take place in.
- ☐ I have authority from the PCC to apply to the Quick Wins Grant Fund on their behalf.
- ☐ The PCC understands that Quick Wins grant funding may only be used for the agreed works.
- ☐ The PCC expects the works to be completed within 12 months of receiving a grant offer.
- ☐ No costs included in this application are being funded through another Church of England grant programme.
- ☐ I give permission for my personal data submitted in this application to be stored and processed.
- ☐ Quotation(s) for the cost of the works will be emailed to [eco@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:eco@exeter.anglican.org) within the next day.

---

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Microsoft. The data you submit will be sent to the form owner.

 Microsoft Forms