Cathedrals have an important role to play in promoting green practice, both locally and nationally.

As the mother church of the diocese, cathedrals are well placed to test new ways of working and demonstrate a commitment to environmental action.

Going green

To begin the process of going green, ask yourself:

**Are you on green energy?**
Are the cathedral and all its associated buildings on green energy?

Electricity from [Parish Buying](#), our national procurement service, is now 100% renewable.

**Do you have an environmental audit and action plan to reduce your impact?**
Eco Church has a [survey](#) that can work for you.

**Can you work with other groups locally to take environmental action?**
Manchester cathedral has established the [Our Faith, Our Planet](#) project. It works with local partners including the Carbon Literacy Project to run numerous events for faith communities across the city.
Case studies

Bradford Cathedral
The first cathedral to install solar panels, it has continued to be a leader in environmental action.

The cathedral has instituted wide ranging initiatives including:

- Food waste digester and composters
- **Energy efficient boilers**
- Recycling bins
- Using [Fairtrade](https://www.fairtrade.org) products
- Having milk delivered by a local milkman in glass bottles

They have also worked with the local council, faith groups and the [Forest for Bradford](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) on a project to plant 600 trees to:

- Reduce air pollution
- Offset their carbon usage
- Take the lead on our [mission to sustain and renew the life of the Earth](https://www.earthmission.net)

Find out more about Bradford Cathedral

York Minster
York Minster measured their carbon footprint and created an action plan to address it:

- They switched their energy supplier to 100% renewable electricity
- They ensured their light bulbs were LED or low-energy
- They planted a sensory garden outside the walls and recruited volunteers to manage it

The Minster got an [Eco Church](https://www.eco-church.org) silver award for:

- Integrating environmental themes into their worship
- Promoting Fairtrade goods
- And committing to reduce energy usage, use sustainable materials and exercise good stewardship in all that they do
Want more help?

Tackle challenges specific to you

Get advice from the Cathedral Fabric Commission for England

Renewable technology installations

See how some cathedrals are working to integrate best practice

Why you should act

Find out what’s in it for you

About our environment programme

See what we’re doing to reduce our environmental impact