

The Energy Footprint Tool allows all churches around the country to enter their utility bills and find out their "carbon footprint".

The EFT is now open (as of 17/Mar/22) for you to enter your 2021 utility bills. It remains open until July 31st 2022.



The easy-to-use Energy Footprint Tool will tell your church what your "carbon footprint" is, based on the energy you use to heat and light your buildings.

You can find it on the [Online Parish Returns System](#).

Nationally, it helps us know our carbon baseline - where we are starting from - and how much progress we are making.

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Why did we develop the EFT?

As a Church, we have a target to meet net carbon zero by 2030. We are therefore developing a number of tools to monitor how we are progressing towards this target.

In 2020, we introduced the first of these tools – the Energy Footprint Tool, which measures the energy carbon use of churches. Since then, other tools have been created for schools, housing, cathedrals, offices, TEIs, and transport.

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What is the EFT for, and where do I find it?

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[What did we learn from the first two years of the EFT?](#)

The EFT helps us know our carbon baseline - where we are starting from - and how much progress we are making. Over 4,000 churches entered their information in the first year, allowing us to estimate that for 2019 the carbon footprint for the Church of England's church buildings was around 185,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases (tCO₂e).

You can read more about what we have learned from the first year [in this report](#).

You can read the report from the second year [in this report](#).

[Opening and closing dates in 2022](#)

The EFT is now open (as of 17/Mar/22) for you to enter your 2021 utility bills.

This year there is a hard deadline to enter your data of **July 31st 2022**; **there will be no extensions**.

This earlier date will enable the national Research and Stats team to get the data analysed and published sooner, meaning we will be able to develop the tool earlier, leading to opening the tool at the very beginning of 2023 (for 2022 data collection), as requested by many dioceses.

It is available to all Church of England churches using the [Online Parish Returns System](#). (St Albans churches can use an equivalent system that connects, contact your DAC.)

[How does the EFT work?](#)

To find out how it works, [read the instructions sheet here](#), and watch a [short instructional video](#), created by the Diocese of Manchester.

The system uses the information we already hold about your church to populate your answers.

This means churches will only be asked for a small amount of additional information. **You will need to have the whole of last year's electricity and gas/oil bills.**

The Energy Footprint Tool will tell your church the amount of carbon produced annually by heating and lighting your church buildings. There are two useful graphs that show you your efficiency scores: one for energy efficiency based on building size and one for attendance. It can take account of separate buildings such as church halls, as long as you have the utility bills for them.

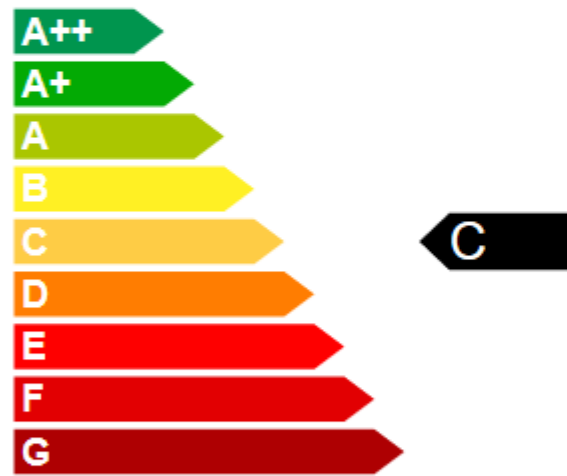
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Online Parish Returns System

Enter Your Data View Data ▾ Admin Menu ▾ Users Menu ▾ [Log out](#)

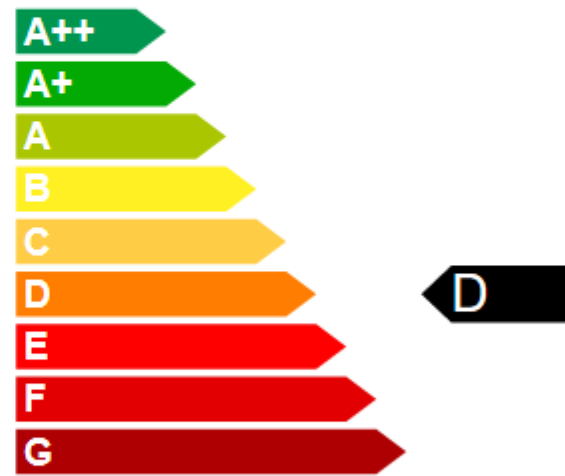
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Energy Efficiency

Emissions/m² rating



Emissions/person hour rating



Headline Results

Weather adjusted net tonnes of CO2 emissions	0.4
Person hours/year	421
CO2 emissions per m ² of usable floor area	27.6
Emissions/m ² rating	C
CO2 emissions per person hour	0.9
Emissions/person hour rating	D

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What information do you need to hand?

You will need your utility bills for the year before; electricity, gas, oil, or whichever other fuel you use. For example, if you are completing it in 2022, you need your 2021 bills. ^ If you have solar panels, information on their generation over the preceding year. ^

If you want to include a separate church hall or other building, then you need the bills for this too. ^ If you want to exclude an area which is permanently rented out to tenants and sub-metered, you will want this information to hand. ^

[You can find a paper copy of the questions here.](#)

For most churches, we already know the floor area. If we don't already hold this information, you will need a sensible estimate of the m² floor area of the church, and any other associated buildings you are inputting, such as the church hall. ^

You will also need a sensible estimate of the number of person-hours that the church is used throughout the year. ^ Please remember when entering this data that a good estimate is fine ^ these numbers do not need to be 100% accurate, and long as they are in a relevant ball park.

[To help you calculate the size and usage of the church, you might find this template helpful.](#)

Which green energy providers 'count' for EFT purposes?

The Energy Footprint Tool calculate the carbon footprint of your energy use (oil, gas, electricity). It shows both the "gross" and "net" carbon footprint. The gross figure represents all the energy your church has used, whilst the net figure deducts any electricity or gas which is either generated on-site or purchased from a 100% renewable tariff meeting certain criteria.

The list of companies meeting these criteria is reviewed each year.

You can find here the list of providers who meet the criteria in 2021.

Why complete the EFT, when COVID reduced our activities?

For parts of 2021, our activities were reduced and disrupted, so energy use was not entirely normal. We can assure you that entering your energy usage will be useful for you and for the national church.

Inside the tool we have built a special adjustment for the time spent in lockdown, which will mean firstly, a sensible comparison for the efficiency of your church's energy consumption compared with your data from before lockdown, and also gives us a way to make sensible comparisons in future years.

Once we know our carbon footprint, what next?

The tool also offers some helpful tips to reduce your carbon emissions. Using the tool each year will help you to track the impact of the different steps you are taking to reduce your carbon footprint.

You can use the Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon to plan your action, and our Net Zero Carbon church webpage to get informed. Refer to our net-zero carbon webinar programme and see how Parish Buying can support you.

Who created the EFT?

The Energy Footprint Tool was created by the Church of England Research and Statistics Team in response to the call from General Synod in Feb 2019 to be able to measure the carbon footprint of the Church. It is a key step towards meeting our goal to cut our emissions and play our role in responding to the climate crisis.

If you would like to know more, please get in touch with Sam Nunney from Research and Statistics. sam.nunney@churchofengland.org

Reducing your carbon footprint



The path to net zero

[Find out what net zero carbon emissions means for the Church.](#)



Eco Church

[Learn how your church can become an Eco Church.](#)

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