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The recommendations in this [short, two-page guidance note](#) aim to summarise how churches can reduce their energy use and associated carbon emissions. They are based on the findings of our church energy audit programme and input from a range of professionals in the field.

It offers a 'practical path' to net zero carbon, setting out where most churches should start, and more advanced projects for churches who use more energy.

[Download the Practical Path to Net Zero here.](#)

## Where should you start?

These are actions that **nearly all churches** can benefit from, even low occupancy churches used only on a Sunday. They are relatively easy, with relatively fast pay back.

They are a good place for churches to start, when trying to move towards 'net zero'.

There are actions you can take

- on **the building itself**, like maintaining the roof and fixing broken windows
- on your **heating & lighting**, like switching to renewables and installing LED lights
- and actions for **people & policies**, like creating an energy champion.

[Read the full list of action in our two-page guidance.](#)

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## Where do you go next?

These are actions with a reasonably fast pay back for a church with medium energy usage, used a few times a week. Perhaps half of churches should consider them.

Most actions cost more than the ones above, and/or require more time and thought. Some require some specialist advice and/or installers. They are often good next steps for those churches with the time and resources to move on further towards 'net zero'.

These include steps such as,

- On your building: if you have an un-insulated, easy-to-access roof void, consulting with your QI about insulating the loft\*.
- On your heating and lighting: improve your heating zones and controls, so you only warm the areas you are using.
- For people & polices: vary service times with the seasons, so in winter you meet early afternoon when the building is warmer.

[For the full list of actions, read our two-page guidance.](#)

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## Getting to zero

These are bigger, more complex, projects, which only busy churches with high energy use are likely to consider. They could reduce energy use significantly, but require substantial work (which itself has a carbon cost) and have a longer payback. **They all require professional advice, including input from your DAC.**

They include actions like;

- The building itself : If you have an open tower void, insulate or draught-proof the tower ceiling
- Heating & lighting: Install solar PV, if you have an appropriate roof and use sufficient daytime electricity in the summer.

[For the full list of actions, read our two-page guidance.](#)

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## Download a self-guided checklist

- [Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon Self-Guided Checklist onscreen version](#)
- [Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon Self-Guided Checklist print version](#)

A great first step for your church is to complete our self-guided checklist, against all the steps in the Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon.

Above are two versions;

- (left) designed for printing-out and completing in writing

- (right) designed for completing onscreen and saving.

Once you have finished your review, discuss the results in your PCC, and agree next steps.

The completed checklist will also be a useful attachment for future faculty applications.

## ALSO OF INTEREST

A diagram showing the outside of a net zero carbon church.

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### Net Zero Carbon Church guidance

Find advice on how to move towards net zero carbon at your church.

Diocesan Environment Officers holding up banners with the fifth mark of mission

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### Net Zero Carbon webinars

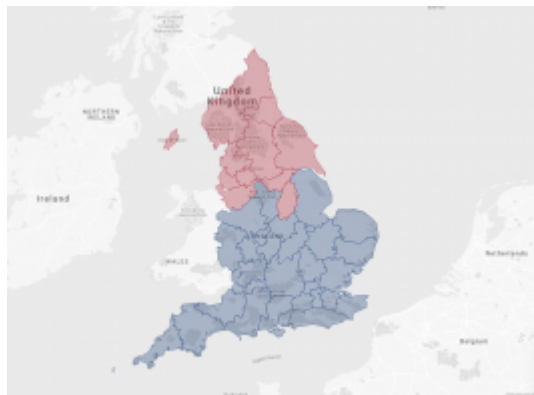
Find free webinars on everything from getting started to solar panels.

image shows the solar panel fixings at St Michaels

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### Net Zero case studies

Get inspired by churches that have already taken action.



### Find your Diocesan Environment Officer

Find the details of your local DEO, there to help you.

*(Image below: St Michael's and All Angels Church, Withingdon, perhaps Britain's first zero carbon church.)*



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