

## FAQs

These initial questions cover the consultation and some early issues that have been raised. Further FAQs will be added after the online information sessions. If you have a question that we haven't answered, please [send it to us](#) and we will update these pages with commonly raised issues and respond to you directly on specifics.

### Who has written the draft Routemap and why?

The ambitious target of net zero carbon by 2030 was set by General Synod and the Routemap is a way to make possible this aim and to enable the Church to play its part in the international action required to prevent the worst excesses of global heating and climate change.

It has been written by a sub-committee of the Church of England's Environmental Working Group (EWG), chaired by the Bishop of Selby, Dr John Thomson, with advice from charities and across the church.

### Why are you consulting now?

At a time when we are part of a strong faith voice at COP26, calling on world leaders to take ambitious climate action, to be credible we must "get our own house in order". Net zero is central to our mission to safeguard creation and achieve a just world, is required to stop the Church's own contribution to global heating, and is called for by young people across the globe. This consultation is a discussion across the Church about what action to take, but inaction is not an option. It is a result of work over the last 18 months, but needs your input to ensure the final version that goes to the General Synod in July 2022 is realistic, achievable and shaped by your views.

### Is this just for churches?

No, the [scope of the net zero target](#) was set by the General Synod and covers churches, cathedrals, schools, TEIs, housing and offices as well as work-related travel (known in carbon footprinting as Scopes 1 and 2, with some small elements of Scope 3).

### What can we do to reduce the already low emissions of a small rural church?

We know from analysis of the [2019 Energy Footprint Tool](#) returns that the majority of the bottom 5% of carbon emitting churches are small and rural, whilst the top 5% of carbon emitting churches are large and urban.

|  | <b>Top 5% Carbon Emitting Churches in the EFT</b><br>(213 Churches) | <b>Bottom 5% Carbon Emitting Churches in the EFT</b><br>(214 Churches) |
|--|---|--|
| Ave. net carbon footprint per church (tonnes CO2e)   | 56  | 0.01   |
| % Urban  | <b>84%</b>  | 11%  |
| % Rural  | 15%   | <b>87%</b>   |
| % Electricity & gas                                  | <b>90%</b>  | 2%   |
| % Electricity & oil                                  | 5%  | 0%   |
| % Electricity only                                   | 0%  | <b>94%</b>   |
| % other combinations                                 | 5%  | 3%   |
| % Include another building (e.g. a hall or vicarage) | 32%   | 1%   |

|                              |            |            |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| % classified as Large-sized  | <b>67%</b> | 2%         |
| % classified as Medium-sized | 27%        | 40%        |
| % classified as Small-size   | 1%         | <b>56%</b> |
| % classified as High-usage   | <b>68%</b> | 4%         |
| % classified as Medium-usage | 29%        | 21%        |
| % classified as Low-usage    | 3%         | <b>75%</b> |

Many churches, and other buildings in the church estate, are already very low carbon. They use their heating only a few hours per week or month. Staying on top of maintenance, so the building is water-tight and damp-free, is the key step to take.

The [Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon](#) is designed to help parishes and [Parish Buying](#) can help with the switch to a [green electricity provider](#).

### **Have you considered the costs in delivering net zero carbon?**

The sub-committee is aware of the importance of answering this question. Pilot studies and early evaluations are still being undertaken and the EWG will provide indicative figures before we report back to General Synod on the Routemap in July 2022.

You can help inform the estimations if you can share the costs of works you have done to reduce carbon emissions – please [contact us](#) with details.

Not all adaptations need to be costly. Some changes are quick and simple, such as switching to a green energy provider, filling gaps in windows, and changing lightbulbs. Look first at the easy wins- avoid carrying out big interventions solely for small carbon savings.

### **How will delivery of net zero carbon be funded?**

We are currently working this through, and have commissioned external expertise to help us.

The answer will include public funding, grants, internal funding, and low cost lending.

A large part will be through local fundraising, as the Church has always done. The sub-committee recognises the funding environment is difficult and that large sums are hard to come by. One aspiration is to scope all building projects in a way which achieves environmental objectives that will lead us towards net zero.

To help parishes, we have updated the grants directory and run environmental fundraising [webinars](#).

Our fundraising strategy will be included in the work brought to General Synod in July 2022.

### **Can we offset our carbon emissions?**

To make a difference to climate change everyone needs to reduce and ultimately eliminate carbon emissions, however we recognise that there are likely to be some residual emissions in 2030 which will need to be offset if we are to achieve net zero. The sub-committee knows there are issues with quality offsetting so the consultation asks for views on offsetting which will feed into development of a national standard.