

Buildings and Energy category

Buildings and Energy category

While 'church' is not the building we meet in, for many of us our corporate worship and activities happen in a building(s), and our use of these spaces is what generates the most significant aspect of our energy emissions.

Most denominations have now set a target date for achieving net zero carbon emissions, and the UK government has targets of 77% reduction on 1990 emissions by 2035, and net zero carbon by 2050. This survey category focuses on reducing carbon emissions from your building(s) and energy use and how we might use these spaces better in a changing climate.

There are three pathways through the 'Buildings and energy' category of the survey.

Pathway 1: Cathedrals and churches which are used regularly (at least weekly) and have energy and water supplies.

Pathway 2: Small, intermittently used churches, including those without energy or water supplies.

Pathway 3: Churches without their own building (e.g. those that meet in rented space or outdoors).

Please refer to the [Buildings and energy overview document](#) for further guidance about completing this category.

Pathway question

1. Please identify which pathway on balance best fits your situation. Please include all the buildings you own, manage or use.

Pathway 1: Our church or cathedral is used regularly (at least weekly) and has energy and water supplies.

Pathway 2: Our church is intermittently used (less than once weekly) and may not have an energy or water supply.

Pathway 3: Our church does not own or manage a building e.g. churches that meet in a rented space or outdoors

For quick reference or if you are printing this document, please note that:

Pathway 1: pages 2–6

Pathway 2: pages 7–11

Pathway 3: page 12

Please note this document is for reference and church-use only. To apply for an Eco Church award, you will need to copy your answers across to the online survey on the [Eco Church online platform](#). As we are a small admin team we are unable to accept paper copies of surveys as award applications.

Buildings and Energy category

Pathway 1: Our church or cathedral is used regularly (at least weekly) and has energy and water supplies.

Commitment

2. Our church has recognised the climate and nature crises and the fundamental injustice these represent. We have committed to reducing our carbon footprint year-on-year, in line with our denomination's commitment to net zero (if appropriate).

Yes / No

Theme 1: Carbon measuring

3. What is the carbon footprint of energy used in your church building(s)? This can be measured using the 360°carbon tool from Climate Stewards and selecting just the 'Energy' section, or the net figure of the Church of England's Energy Footprint Tool.

Less than 5.0 tonne per year

5.0 – 15.0 tonnes per year

Greater than 15 tonnes per year

4. We have measured the carbon footprint of other church activities (including staff and congregation travel, food, purchasing and maintenance of land and buildings) by completing all sections except for 'Energy' on the 360°carbon tool from Climate Stewards.

Less than 7.5 tonnes per year

7.5 – 20.0 tonnes per year

Greater than 20.0 tonnes per year

Not measured

5. Our church has a net zero action plan for our building(s).

Yes / No

6. Our church has a plan to report our progress towards net zero carbon to our church's leadership and/or governing body (PCC, Elders, etc.) regularly.

Yes / No

7. Our church has appointed an Eco Church champion or team to help implement and monitor our net zero carbon plans.

Yes / No

Buildings and Energy category

8. Our Eco Church champion or team has the confidence and knowledge to carry out their role and/or has access to appropriate training or support (e.g. Carbon Literacy training).

Yes / No

Themes 2a and b: The building

9. Our church undertakes regular planned maintenance of our building(s), roof(s) and gutters to control heat loss and damp.

Yes / No

10. Our church has taken appropriate advice and draught-proofed our building(s) as much as is reasonably practical.

Yes / Partly / No

11. Our church has insulated all exposed heating pipes, etc.

Yes / Partly / No

12. Our church building(s) walls, roof(s) and floor spaces are insulated.

Yes 10 / Partly 5 / No 0

NA (*it's not possible and/or appropriate to insulate our building(s)*)

13. Our church building(s) windows are secondary or double glazed, or have a protective layer installed.

Yes / Partly / No

NA (*it's not practicable and/or appropriate to do so*)

14. Our church has a climate resilience action plan that considers climate-related risks and the steps we will take to adapt to these (e.g. planning for flood and/or extreme heat and other emerging climate hazards and engagement with the local authority).

Yes / No

15. Our church's electricity supply is on a renewable energy tariff.

Yes – our electricity is on another renewable tariff (including the Church of England Parish Buying scheme Green Energy Basket)

No

NA (*a renewable energy tariff is not available to us*)

Buildings and Energy category

16. Our church uses LED lighting.

Yes / Partly / No

17. Our church's oil or gas supply is:

ongoing

to be discontinued at the end of the boiler or other gas-fired appliance's life

non-existent – we don't use oil or gas

NA (*we cannot currently change our oil or gas supply, as there are no other options available to us*)

18. Our church's gas boiler or other gas-fired appliance is A rated.

Yes / No / We don't use gas

19. Our church has installed one or more Smart Meters to monitor our energy use and encourage efficiency.

Yes / Partly / No

NA (*this isn't possible in our situation*)

20. Our church has installed an energy control system of some sort (e.g. heating and lighting controls) to help us use energy more efficiently.

Yes / Partly / No

NA (*this would not make a meaningful difference in our situation*)

21. Our church has reduced our space-heating demand as far as possible (e.g. through zoned and localised heating solutions and interventions such as pew heating or pads).

Yes / Partly / No

NA (*we need to heat our whole space*)

22. Our church has installed a heat pump or electric boiler.

Yes / No

23. Our church has installed solar PV or other renewable energy generation capacity.

Yes / No

NA (*this is not possible in our situation*)

Buildings and Energy category

24. Our church has installed water-saving devices (e.g. water butts, cistern hippos, water-efficient toilets or grey water collection).

Yes / No

25. Our church's water supply is metered.

Yes / No

NA (*this is not possible in our situation*)

Theme 2c: People and policies

26. Any proposed changes to our building(s) take our Eco Church commitment into account and will meet high environmental standards.

Yes / No

27. Our church has a building(s) operations plan with a focus on minimising energy use and maximising energy efficiency.

Yes / No

28. Our church plans for future climate resilience and has a 'safe spaces' policy which enables people to use our building(s) in extreme hot or cold weather, and/or as a space for conversations about climate change and its impacts.

Yes / No

NA (*our building(s) are unlikely to be suitable or needed*)

29. Our church has a procurement policy and/or practice that prioritises products and services with low environmental impact (e.g. low-energy products, circular production methods).

Yes / Partly / No

30. Our church has a waste and recycling policy or practice that ensures everything possible is reused or recycled so that the waste that goes to landfill is minimised.

Yes / No

31. Our church has a lettings policy which prioritises the sustainable use of our site.

Yes / No

NA (*we do not let our building(s)*)

Buildings and Energy category

32. Our church offsets its residual carbon footprint annually.

Energy footprint only

Energy footprint plus staff and congregation travel, food, purchasing and maintenance of land and building(s)

None

Buildings and Energy category

Pathway 2: Our church is intermittently used (less than once weekly) and may not have an energy or water supply.

Commitment

2. Our church has recognised the climate and nature crises and the fundamental injustice these represent. We have made a commitment to reducing our carbon footprint year-on-year, in line with our denomination's commitment to net zero (if appropriate).

Yes / No

Theme 1: Carbon measuring

3. What is the carbon footprint of energy used in your church's building(s)? This can be measured using the 360° carbon tool from Climate Stewards and selecting just the 'Energy' section, or the net figure of the Church of England's Energy Footprint Tool.

Less than 1.0 tonne per year

1.0 – 10.0 tonnes per year

More than 10.0 tonnes per year

4. We have measured the carbon footprint of other church activities (including staff and congregation travel, food, purchasing and maintenance of land and buildings) by completing all sections except for 'Energy' on the 360° carbon tool from Climate Stewards.

Less than 5.0 tonnes per year

5.0 – 15.0 tonnes per year

Greater than 15.0 tonnes per year

Not measured

5. Our church has a net zero action plan for our building(s).

Yes / No

6. Our church has a plan to report our progress towards net zero carbon to our church's leadership and/or governing body (PCC, Elders, etc.) regularly.

Yes / No

7. Our church has appointed an Eco Church champion or team to help implement and monitor our net zero carbon plans.

Yes / No

Buildings and Energy category

8. Our Eco Church champion or team has the confidence and knowledge to carry out their role and/or has access to appropriate training or support.

Yes / No

Themes 2a and b: The building

9. Our church undertakes regular planned maintenance of our building(s), roof(s) and gutters to control heat loss and damp.

Yes / No

10. Our church has taken appropriate advice and draught-proofed our building(s) as much as is reasonably practical.

Yes / Partly / No

11. Our church has insulated all exposed heating pipes etc.

Yes / Partly / No

12. Our church building(s) walls, roof(s) and floor spaces are insulated.

Yes / Partly / No

NA (*it's not possible and/or appropriate to insulate our building(s)*)

13. Our church building(s) windows are secondary or double glazed, or have a protective layer installed.

Yes / Partly / No

NA (*it's not practicable and/or appropriate to do so*)

14. Our church has a climate resilience action plan that considers climate-related risks and the steps we will take to adapt to these (e.g. planning for flood and/or extreme heat and other emerging climate hazards and engagement with the local authority).

Yes / No

15. Our church's electricity supply is on a recognised renewable energy tariff.

Yes – our electricity is on another renewable tariff (including the Church of England Parish Buying scheme's Green Energy Basket)

No

NA (*a renewable energy tariff is not available to us*)

Buildings and Energy category

16. Our church uses LED lighting.

Yes / Partly / No

NA (*we don't have electric lighting*)

17. Our church's oil or gas supply is:

Ongoing

to be discontinued at the end of the boiler or other gas-fired appliance's life

non-existent – we don't use oil or gas

NA (*we cannot currently change our oil or gas supply*)

18. Our church's gas boiler or other gas-fired appliance is A rated.

Yes / No / We don't use gas

19. Our church has installed one or more Smart Meters to monitor our energy use and encourage efficiency.

Yes / Partly / No

NA (*this isn't possible in our situation*)

20. Our church has installed an energy control system of some sort (e.g. heating and lighting controls) to help us use energy more efficiently.

Yes / Partly / No

NA (*this would not make a meaningful difference in our situation OR we don't have an energy supply*)

21. Our church has reduced our space-heating demand as far as possible (e.g. through zoned and localised heating solutions and interventions such as pew heating or pads).

Yes / Partly / No

NA (*we need to heat our whole space OR we don't have an energy supply for heating*)

22. Our church has installed a heat pump or electric boiler.

Yes / No

NA (*we don't have an electricity supply*)

23. Our church has installed solar PV or other renewable energy generation capacity.

Yes / No

NA (*this is not possible in our situation*)

Buildings and Energy category

24. Our church has installed water-saving devices (e.g. water butts, cistern hippos, water-efficient toilets or grey water collection).

Yes / No

NA (*we don't have a water supply*)

25. Our church's water supply is metered.

Yes / No

NA (*this is not possible in our situation OR we don't have a water supply*)

Theme 2c: People and policies

26. Any proposed changes to our building(s) take our Eco Church commitment into account and will meet high environmental standards.

Yes / No

27. Our church has a building(s) operations plan with a focus on minimising energy use and maximising energy efficiency.

Yes / No

NA (*we don't have an energy supply*)

28. Our church plans for future climate resilience and has a 'safe spaces' policy which enables people to use our building(s) in extreme hot or cold weather, and/or as a space for conversations about climate change and its impacts.

Yes / No

NA (*our building(s) are unlikely to be suitable or needed*)

29. Our church has a procurement policy and/or practice that prioritises products and services with low environmental impact (e.g. low-energy products, circular production methods).

Yes / Partly / No

30. Our church has a waste and recycling policy or practice that ensures everything possible is reused or recycled so that waste to landfill is minimised.

Yes / No

31. Our church has a lettings policy which prioritises the sustainable use of our site.

Yes / No

NA (*we do not let our building(s)*)

Buildings and Energy category

32. Our church offsets its residual carbon footprint annually.

Energy footprint only

Energy footprint plus staff and congregation travel, food, purchasing and maintenance of land and building(s)

None

Buildings and Energy category

Pathway 3: Our church does not own or manage a building e.g. churches that meet in a rented space or outdoors

Commitment

2. Our church has recognised the climate and ecological crisis and the fundamental injustice this represents. We have made a commitment to reducing our carbon footprint year-on-year, in line with our denomination's commitment to net zero, if appropriate.

Yes / No

Theme 1: Carbon measuring

3. Our church has appointed an Eco Church champion or team to help implement and monitor our net zero carbon plans.

Yes / No

4. Our Eco Church champion or team has the confidence and knowledge to carry out their role and/or has access to appropriate training or support.

Yes / No

5. We have measured the carbon footprint of our church activities by completing the applicable sections of the 360° carbon tool from Climate Stewards.

Yes / No

Theme 2a and b: The building

6. Our church discusses the climate and ecological crises with the owners/managers of the building(s) we use and seeks to influence them in moving towards net zero carbon emissions.

Yes / No

NA (*we don't use a building*)

7. Our church has a procurement policy and/or practice that prioritises products and services with low environmental impact (e.g. low-energy products, circular production methods).

Yes / Partly / No

8. Our church minimises the use of heating, lighting and water in the building(s) we use.

Yes / No

NA (*we don't use a building/have no control over heating use*)