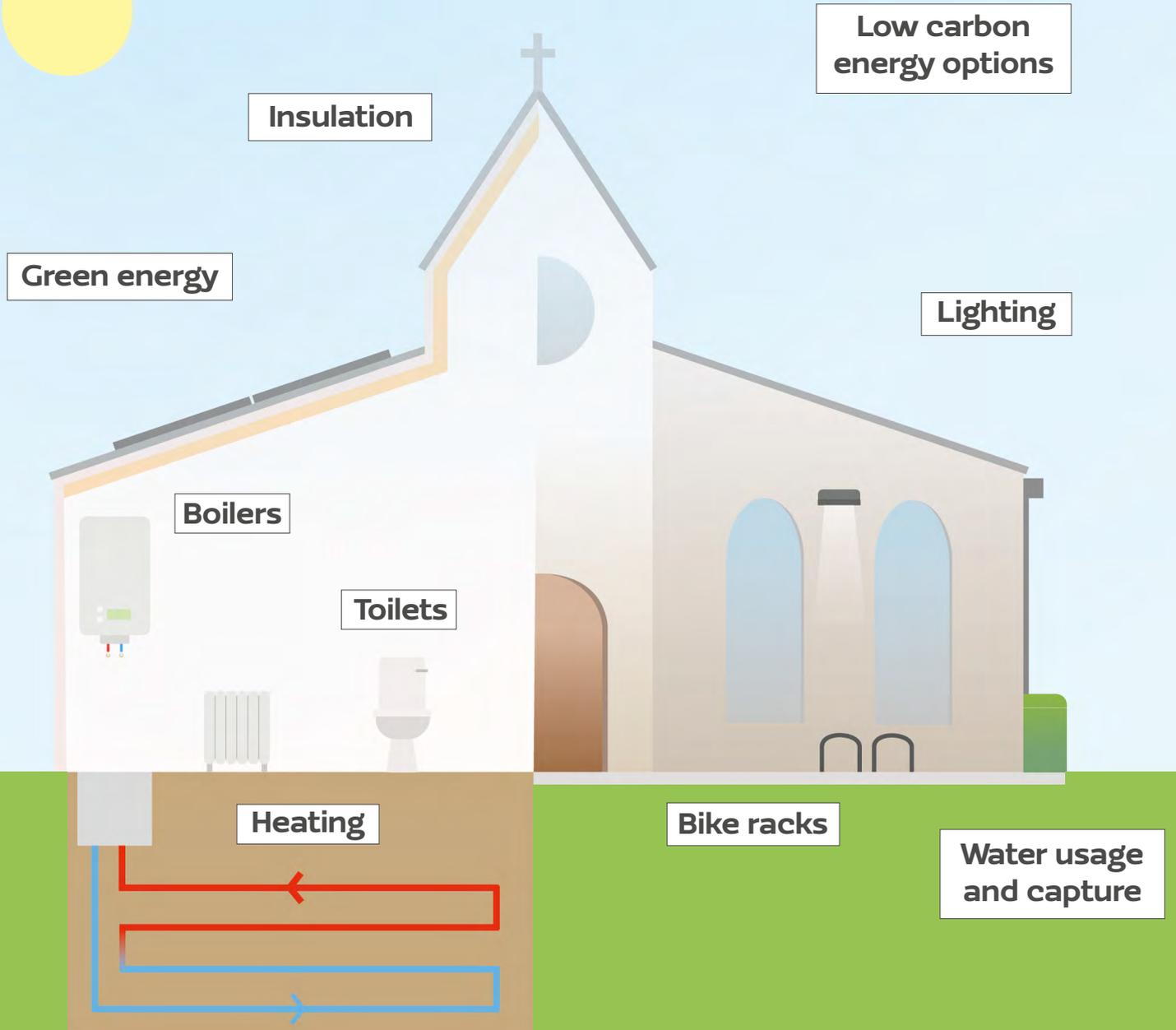


OVERVIEW

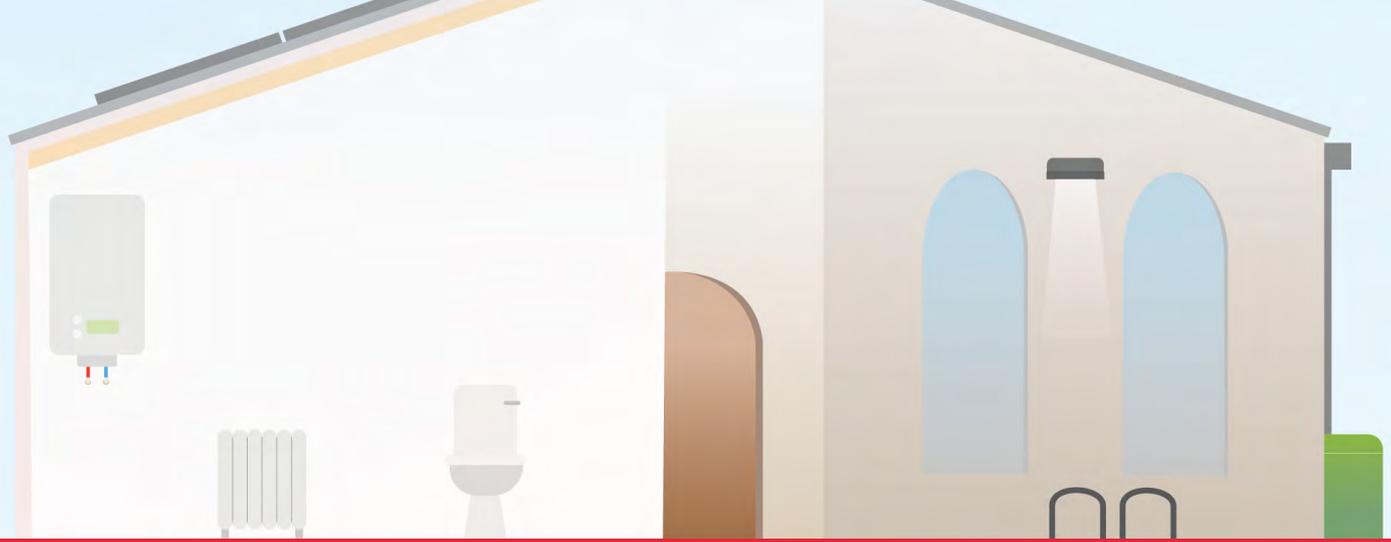


BUILDINGS

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BUILDINGS

Why do we include a section on buildings?

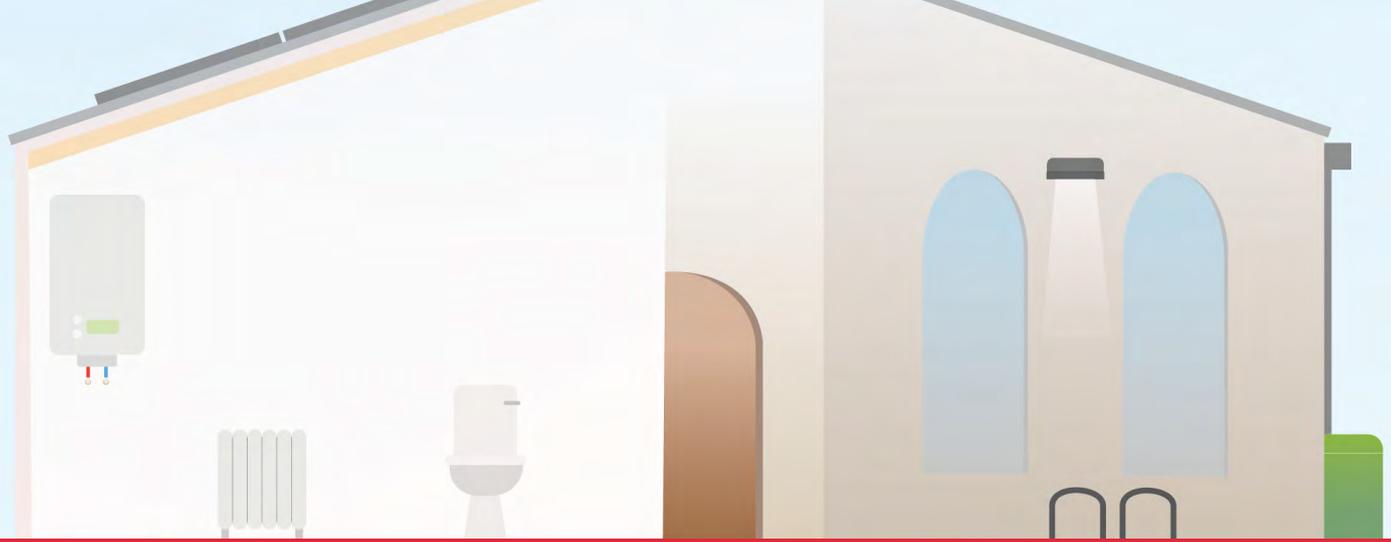
It would be surprising to find anyone in the UK who is unaware of climate change. Whether you are interested in the data or not, we have all experienced it first-hand and from hearing news of extremes in global weather: 2010–19 was the hottest decade since records began, with 2019 having the highest carbon dioxide levels ever recorded.

We know that carbon dioxide emissions contribute to climate change and, whilst some are from natural causes, many are from human activities. We also know that the impact of carbon emissions and extreme weather affects the world's poorest countries most – whether due to flooding, drought, excessive heat or lack of food.

As Christians, we want to be both stewards of the earth God has given us and to think about the poor: as churches, we can do that by considering changing our own behaviours to help reduce carbon emissions. This will include thinking about reducing our energy consumption, switching to renewable energy sources and offsetting where we really can't reduce.

The questions start by asking churches to consider measuring and setting targets to improve their carbon efficiency. There are a number of areas where savings can be made cheaply or which save money as well as carbon, such as switching to green energy suppliers, changing to LED lighting, insulating and draught-proofing wherever possible and considering boiler efficiency. Heating and use of power (for things like lighting) are the main sources of carbon emissions for most churches, so we cover these areas thoroughly with the final questions of the paper about renewable energy generation. Not all churches will be able to generate their own electricity, and our resources will help you understand more about the options available.

The questions in the middle of the questionnaire are aimed at helping us all think about smaller behaviour changes we can make which have a cumulative impact: things like reducing mains water consumption, using recycled materials and taking to the bike instead of jumping in the car.



BUILDINGS

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Each church will find their own pathway to improving carbon efficiency. Often this will be done in stages as congregations become more engaged and resources become available.

However you approach it, there are lots of quick wins to get going on. And remember to involve the whole congregation – whether for simple things like remembering to turn lights off, fundraising to enable the church to be greener or encouraging behavioural change at home as well. The Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards allow you, as a church, to celebrate progress made along the way.

We pray that these resources will help you become part of a cultural change, with churches inspiring caring of God's earth in all we do.

LONGER READS & OTHER RESOURCES

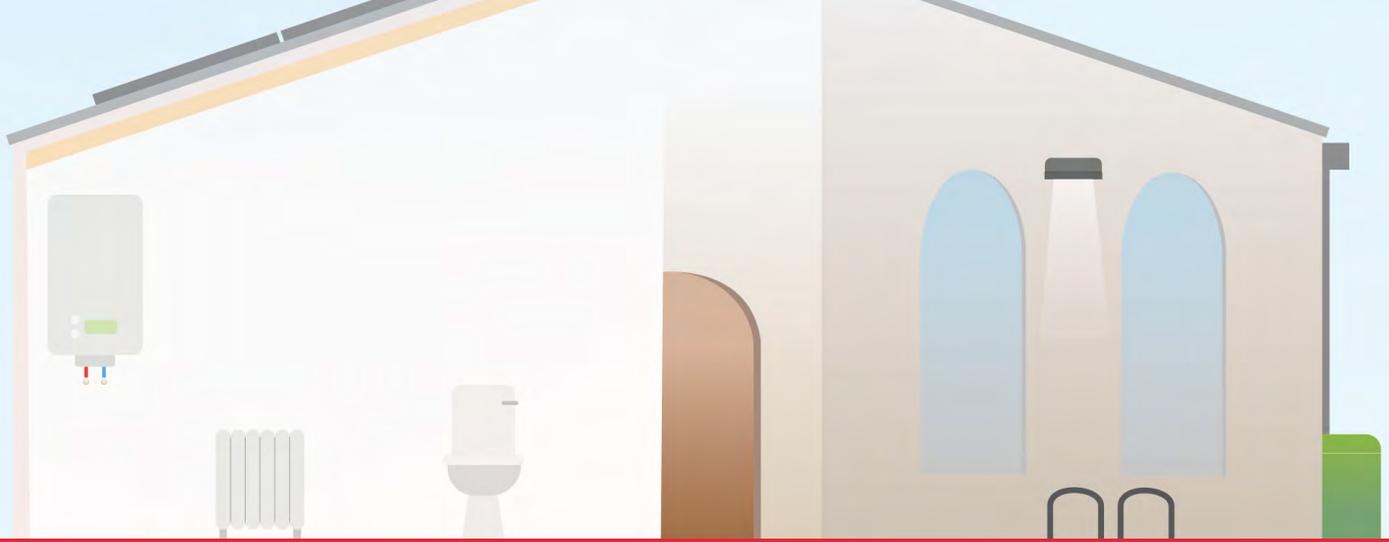
Watch Christian Climate Scientist, Katharine Hayhoe, debunking some myths on her YouTube channel 'Global Weirding':

- *This is all just a part of a natural cycle, right?* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k5_zpjerQFo
- *Religion has nothing to say about climate change, right?* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W53uRqITk2I>

If you would like a straightforward explanation of why carbon dioxide heats up the atmosphere, have a look at these websites. This first includes a fun video showing the impact of using items you will have at home:

<https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2021/02/25/carbon-dioxide-cause-global-warming/>

<https://climate.nasa.gov/causes/>

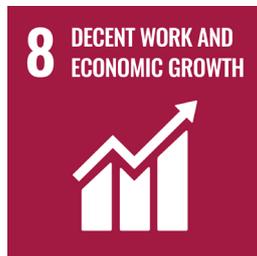


BUILDINGS

Why do we include a section on buildings?

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2015, all United Nations member states signed up to 17 Sustainable Development Goals, with Goal 13 being 'Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change'. This sits alongside others which this buildings section touches on:



<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

In 2020, the UN produced the film 'Urgent Solutions for Urgent Times' highlighting the challenges. Chapter 1 (starts at 5.00 mins) focuses on 'Climate Change and the Planet':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVWHuJOmaEk&t=95s>