



**Net Zero
Carbon
2030**

All you need to know about the new Boiler Replacement Hardship Fund



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Get help to pay for a new carbon friendly heating system for your church!

Has your gas or oil boiler broken down? Do you need to replace it but are worried how you will pay for a new low carbon heating system? The Church of England's Net Zero Programme can help!

The new Boiler Replacement Hardship Grant Fund aims to support churches/church halls with limited budgets with the costs of replacing a gas boiler with an alternative low carbon heating system.

Grants of up to £45k are available to cover the difference in cost between a low carbon heating solution, when compared to a replacement oil/gas heating system.

The fund is from the Church of England's Net Zero by 2030 programme, which aims to equip, resource and support all parts of the church to tackle climate change through reducing carbon emissions from the energy used in its buildings, schools and work-related transport.

How much funding could my church/church hall receive?

The level of grant available for your church will vary according to the indices of multiple deprivation by ecclesiastical parish as shown in the [Church of England Parish Map](#), as follows:

- Grant will cover the full cost differential up to a threshold of £25k (to enable smaller systems to be supported in full)
- Above £25k, the grant will cover the following amounts, varied by deprivation index (see table on the next page)



Parish Deprivation Rank	Amount of cost differential covered by the grant (up to a maximum grant of £45k)
6,236 to 12,307	£25k + 50% of the cost differential above £25k, up a maximum of £45k grant.
5,012 to 6,235	£25k + 60% of the cost differential above £25k, up a maximum of £45k grant.
2558 to 5,011	£25k + 75% of the cost differential above £25k, up a maximum of £45k grant.
1 to 2,557	£25k + 90% of the cost differential above £25k, up a maximum of £45k grant. (or a higher percentage if exceptionally justified)

Who is eligible?

Churches in all dioceses, which meet the criteria below, are eligible, including Sodor & Man and Europe, but excluding the Channel Islands where church repairs are funded through other routes.

Eligible buildings

- Churches and church halls where activities are taking place in a building owned by part of the Church of England.

Ineligible buildings

- Church of England congregations meeting in rented or leased accommodation owned by others.
- Cathedrals, schools, housing, and other parish or diocesan building types.

Eligibility criteria for church/church hall

- Church/church hall's existing oil or gas boiler is at end of life or failed.
- There is an urgent need to replace the gas/oil boiler which cannot be postponed to allow for fundraising activities.
- Where a church/church hall has completed a recent Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) return (s), a copy of the latest EFT should be provided alongside the application form. If a church/church hall hasn't submitted an EFT and is applying when the EFT is closed for submissions, the applicant commits to completing the EFT as soon as possible when it next opens, and this will be a grant condition.



- Church/Church Hall has received professional advice on the low carbon solution being proposed, this solution must have been verified – and be supported by an energy audit, action plan, or specific bespoke technical design/ advice.
- Low carbon heating project can be started in this Triennium (by end of December 2025).
- The heating solution is NOT reliant on a wider re-ordering, or other projects which are not yet in train.
- Church/Church Hall is not required to be in the top 20% of highest emitting churches in a diocese.



Hardship Criteria

The intention of this Grant Fund is to respond to demonstrable need.

Parishes must be able to demonstrate that they cannot afford the cost of the appropriate low carbon heating system alternative to replacement of their existing oil or gas boiler. For example, they do not have significant unrestricted reserves which could contribute to this, or if they do, they can provide an explanation of why these cannot be committed.

Costs which can be funded through the Boiler Hardship Grant Fund

- This grant fund can cover the difference in cost between a low carbon heating solution when compared to a replacement oil/gas heating system, covering the cost of:
 - Equipment,
 - Cost of electrical work and connections to facilitate the low carbon technology,
 - Modification to secondary side heating system to support low grade heating technologies.
- Where solar panels are included in the project in order to reduce electricity bills and enable affordable running costs of the low carbon heating solution, the cost of solar panels, battery storage and installation can be funded from this grant.
- This grant fund will not cover the costs of associated works that would be undertaken regardless of the type of heating system installed – examples include:
 - Any electrical works required regardless of upgrade to ensure the location is BS7671 compliant.
 - Fabric improvements to address building repairs, improve insulation, reduce draughts etc. (Other funding streams are available for these works, for example Buildings for Mission and Quick Wins - please speak to your diocesan NZC Officer for further information.)
- The grant fund will not cover any ongoing costs associated to the new heating system – for example increased electricity costs in running air source heat pumps.
- VAT (for unlisted churches and work to listed churches which falls outside the eligibility of the [Listed Places of Worship \(LPW\) grant scheme](#)). It will be assumed that PCCs will apply to the LPW grant scheme wherever possible.



Cross-funding of projects with other Building for Mission or Net Zero Carbon grant streams

- A church which has previously received a grant from the NZC Programme (for example a Give To Go Green match-funding grant) is eligible to subsequently receive a Boiler Hardship Grant.
- Your low carbon heating system project can be cross-funded with the Building for Mission Minor Repairs and Improvements Fund and Quick Wins Fund where elements of the project meet the requirements of these funds – for example in building repairs or reducing energy demand.

Will diocesan officers have visibility of grant applications from parishes in their diocese?

Yes, progress of the application will be shared with diocesan Net Zero Carbon Officers, Church Building Support Officers, Diocesan Advisory Committees and Parishes.

How does my church apply?

Grant applications can be made via this [link](#).



What information do I need at the point I apply?

You will need to provide the following information in the application form:

- Statement of need, this should include the following information:
 - What is your current heating system, and what has failed?
 - What is the alternative heating system you are proposing, and what options have you considered.
 - Where you have multiple boilers or buildings on site, please be specific about what will be served by the new low carbon heating solution.
- Evidence of professional advice
 - Who has provided advice about your proposed solution?
 - Please provide copies of the advice received.
- Quotes for replacement oil/gas boiler system, this should demonstrate good procurement practice, and capture all associated costs in a bill of quantities format.
- Quotes for proposed low carbon heating solution, this should demonstrate good procurement practice, and capture all associated costs in a bill of quantities format.



- If you are intending to also install solar on affordability grounds:
 - Clear assessment of an increase in running costs due to switch to an electric heating system, and how the proposed solar solution will offset this.
 - quotes for solar system, this should demonstrate good procurement practice, and capture all associated costs in a bill of quantities format.
- Confirmation that the proposed low carbon heating solution and the replacement oil/gas boiler system are comparable in terms of the areas of the building which they are providing heating for, any difference should be clearly articulated and explained.
- Summary report from the church's most recent EFT submission.
- Evidence that the parish is eligible for this grant fund in terms of the hardship criteria - eg. a copy of the parish's most recent financial return.
- That the church/church hall and the project meets the eligibility criteria.
- A copy of the Church's most recent financial return.
- Confirmation that the parish have considered affordability of running costs, in selecting the alternative heating system
- Statement of support from your Archdeacon:
 - This can be provided as a pdf of an email, or a word document.
 - The statement should address the following:
 - support for the proposed solution,
 - confirmation that the parish is appropriate for this grant fund in terms of the hardship criteria.
- Note: you do not need to have all necessary permissions in place at the point of application or grant offer. But if not, this will then be a grant pre-condition.

What happens after a grant application is submitted?

- The NZC Programme Grant Project Manager will assess your grant application. If we require further information we will contact you at this point.
- We may also discuss your project with your DAC, and/or diocesan NZC Lead.
- If it is successful you will need to electronically sign our grant agreement and accompany this with the minutes of a PCC meeting confirming acceptance of the grant and terms and conditions.
- If you did not have all necessary permissions in place at the point of application, you will need these to be in place before work commences.

Timelines for review and a response

- We recognise that your situation may be urgent, and you will want a reply from us as soon as possible.
- We will commit to an initial review of your grant application and providing you with feedback within two weeks of receipt – excluding the Christmas holiday period from 20 Dec – 3 January.
- The time taken to reach a final decision will depend on whether further information is needed from you.



- The detailed assessment of applications will include a review by a technical advisor from our Technical Advisory Service Panel. They will confirm that the proposed low carbon heating solution and the replacement oil/gas boiler system are comparable in terms of the areas of the building which they are providing heating for. The technical advisor may require a conversation with you or further information to support this review. Their review may also lead to suggestions or guidance in how you approach your project.
- We know you will be keen to make progress on your project but please note that our grant cannot fund work which is carried out, or equipment purchased before the grant agreement is signed.

Payment Profile for the Grant

All permissions must be in place before work commences, and before grant claims can be submitted.

- An initial upfront payment in advance to support deposit payments to suppliers. This will be 40% of the total grant.
- The remaining 60% of the grant will be paid on completion of the project, on presentation of the supplier invoices.
- Payment will be made to the bank account information you provide in the application form.

Monitoring and follow-up

As this is a grant funded opportunity, we are obliged to monitor the great work that churches will do with this funding. In order to do this, we will require a short update on your decarbonisation project when it is completed, and this will form part of the terms and conditions of the grant.

We might also ask you to participate in case studies to showcase the progress you have made in decarbonising your church/church hall so other parishes can learn from this.

We will also require that you complete the EFT in future years so we can understand the impact on energy usage and carbon emissions.

