

NET ZERO CHECKLIST FOR CHURCHES AND ANCILLARY BUILDINGS

NOTES:

- Please use this checklist alongside the [Net Zero guidance](#). It is a tool for reviewing the carbon emissions of your church building(s) and identifying actions that can be taken to help your church reduce its energy use and associated carbon emissions.
- To use this checklist tool, complete the tick boxes in each section, before identifying which actions you will take as a church. The tool can be printed off or completed by clicking and typing into the form. We suggest you review progress towards implementing these actions at a church council meeting.
- Many of the property related outcomes resulting from this will require consent, and therefore it is recommended to seek advice from your District Property Officer. If the church is of historic or architectural interest, you will also need to seek advice from an accredited professional and the [Connexional Conservation Officer](#) before work commences.
- If you require any support, please contact your District Property Officer or the [Property Support team](#).

STEP 1 – ASSESS YOUR BUILDING

The first step is to assess the building in order to understand its performance and energy usage.

		Already done / up to date	Not applicable	Not a priority right now	Explore further / get advice	Priority
1.	Have you calculated the carbon footprint for the building? 360 Carbon is an online tool that can calculate the carbon footprint for the building, using information from utility bills, the floor area and average occupancy of your church.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2.	Have you commissioned an EPC for any buildings requiring one?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3.	Have you commissioned an energy audit ?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

STEP 2 – TAKE FIRST STEPS

The journey to net zero begins with small first steps that nearly all churches can benefit from, even those churches that might only be used only on a Sunday. They are relatively easy, with relatively fast pay back.

		Already done / up to date	Not applicable	Not a priority right now	Explore further / get advice	Priority
The Building						
1.	Have you attended to maintenance issues highlighted in your annual and quinquennial inspections?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2.	Are you maintaining the roof and gutters, to prevent damp entering the building's structure, which can increase heat loss from inside the building?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3.	Do you have a service or maintenance plan for the boilers or electric heaters?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

4.	Have you fixed any broken window panes*, made sure opening windows shut tightly and draught proofed to reduce heat loss?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5.	Have you draught-proofed the gaps around any doors and their frames, or put up a door-curtain?*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
6.	Have you insulated around heating pipes to direct heat where you want it? This may allow other sources of heat to be reduced in this area.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
7.	Have you considered using rugs/floor-coverings (with breathable backings) and cushions on/around the pews/chairs?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Heating and Lighting						
8.	Have you switched to 100% renewable electricity and 'green' gas?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
9.	Can you ask your energy supplier to install a smart meter, to better measure the energy you use?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
10.	Will you replace appliances with A rated versions at the end of their life?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
11.	Have you matched your heating timers to suit the timing of use and activities in the building, so you only run the heating when necessary?*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
12.	If you have water-filled radiators, have you tried turning off the heating 15 minutes before the service ends?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
13.	Have you replaced lightbulbs with LEDs? You may need to replace fittings to allow you to switch to LED bulbs.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
14.	Have you installed timers or motion sensors so that the lighting will automatically switch off in areas that are unoccupied?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
15.	Have you added labels for switches and put up signage to remind people to turn the lights off when not in use?*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
16.	Have you replaced floodlights with new LED units?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
17.	Do you make sure that windows and lights are clean?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
18.	If you have water-filled radiators, have you added a glycol based 'anti-freeze' to your radiator system and reviewed your frost setting?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
19.	If you have an internet connection, could you install a HIVE- or NEST-type heating controller, to better control heating?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
People and Policies						
20.	Do you calculate your carbon footprint each year using 360 Carbon , as part of your annual property checks and communicate the results to your circuit and district?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
21.	Have you appointed a Net Carbon Zero Champion who tracks bills and encourages people to undertake energy efficiency actions (e.g. not leaving electronics on standby, closing doors and windows, turning lights off)?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

22.	Have you written and implemented an energy efficiency procurement policy; committed to renewable electricity and A rated appliances?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
23.	Have you considered moving church council meetings online or elsewhere during cold months, rather than running the church heating?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
24.	Are you involved in initiatives like The Great Big Green Week or Net Zero in my Neighbourhood ?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

* If the church is of historic or architectural interest, you will need to seek advice from an accredited professional and the [Connexional Conservation Officer](#) before works commence.

STEP 3 – MAKE A BIGGER IMPACT						
These are actions with a reasonably fast pay back for a church with medium energy usage where they are used for more than just Sunday mornings. Most actions cost more and 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.		Already done / up to date	Not applicable	Not a priority right now	Explore further / get advice	Priority
The Building						
1.	If you have an uninsulated, easy-to-access roof void, have you consulted with your Quinquennial Inspector about insulating the roof void(s)?*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2.	If you have problematic draughts from your doors, and a door curtain wouldn't work, have you considered installing a draught-lobby?*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3.	Have you considered creating one or more smaller spaces for smaller events that can be heated separately?*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4.	Have you considered fabric wall-hangings or panels , with an air gap behind, as a barrier between people and cold walls?*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Heating and Lighting						
5.	Have you learnt how your building heats/cools and the link to comfort, by using data loggers?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
6.	Have you installed Thermostatic Radiator Valves (TRVs) on radiators in meeting rooms & offices, to allow you to control them individually	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
7.	Have you introduced or improved your heating zones and controls, so you only warm the areas you are using?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
8.	Have you considered under-pew electric heaters and/or infra-red radiant panel heaters?*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
9.	If you have water-filled radiators, have you installed a magnetic sediment "sludge" filter to extend the life of the system?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
10.	Have you installed an energy-saving device such as Savawatt on your fridge or other commercial appliances?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

People and Policies					
11.	Could you vary service times with the seasons, for example, in winter meet early afternoon when the building is warmer?	☐	☐	☐	☐

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STEP 4 – DOWN TO NET 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 and Consent.		Already done / up to date	Not applicable	Not a priority right now	Explore further / get advice
The Building					
1.	Have you installed double-glazing or secondary-glazing on suitable windows in well used areas such offices, vestries and halls?*	☐	☐	☐	☐
2.	Could you internally insulate walls in well-used areas such offices, vestries and halls?*	☐	☐	☐	☐
3.	If you have pew platforms, have you considered insulating under the wooden platform with breathable materials?*	☐	☐	☐	☐
4.	If you are reroofing, then could you introduce insulation in the roof or ceiling , if appropriate for the construction?*	☐	☐	☐	☐
5.	If you have an uninsulated wall with a cavity (typically build 1940 onwards), have you insulated the cavity ?*	☐	☐	☐	☐
6.	Have you considered appropriate external insulation or render , appropriate for the age and nature of the building?*	☐	☐	☐	☐
Heating and Lighting					
7.	Could you install solar PV, if you have an appropriate roof and use sufficient daytime electricity in the summer? Have you taken professional guidance on whether battery installation would also be suitable?*	☐	☐	☐	☐
8.	Have you considered a low carbon heat source, such as a heat pump?*	☐	☐	☐	☐
9.	If you are doing a major reordering or lifting the floor, have you considered under-floor heating?*	☐	☐	☐	☐
10.	If there's no alternative but to rely on fossil-fuels, have you considered replacing an old gas boiler or an oil boiler with a new efficient gas boiler?*	☐	☐	☐	☐
Church Grounds					
11.	If you have car parking that is sufficiently used, could you install EV charging points for electric cars? This can work out cost neutral or earn a small amount of income for the church.	☐	☐	☐	☐

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1. Further Comments

Please use this section for any additional comments not covered in the pro-forma