

DIOCESAN APPROACH TO CARBON NET ZERO BY 2030

Diocesan Document

Introduction

Bishop Zac Niringiye, in his visit to us last year, reminded us of our call to *Being and Becoming God's Church for God's World*. There can be no doubt that the call from international environmental scientific experts and the cry from many of our most vulnerable Christian friends, to turn our attention to the urgent and critical climate change task, are a call and cry back to our biblical foundations, and to learn afresh how to be and become God's Church for God's World.

As Christians this is not an extra burden to carry but a joy to rediscover. We recognise this through our youth and children, so many already dedicated to this task, showing us something of how our wellbeing is caught up in the wellbeing of God's good creation.

In a diocese founded on Benedictine discipline, we have been learning anew the gifts of a rule of life, sharing God's life through loving, living and serving God and our neighbour through life-giving habits. The environmental task demands the best of our disciplines, drawing us anew to God's rhythms.

Our values are the practical virtues embedded in a diocese committed to Sustainable Growth for the Common Good. Here, the goods internal to the gathered church are fundamentally oriented to the goods needed and shared in the common good of wider society. Nowhere more is this true than the widest horizons to which our link provinces and dioceses raise our sights; those who live most immediately with the current impact of climate change and the fundamental injustice being borne by those to whom God calls us to put first.

Our diocesan approach to fulfil the Church of England's agreed target of becoming carbon net zero by 2030 is therefore a foundational task for each and all of us as Christians. A task in which we hear a call back to a healthier relationship with God, a demanding task but also a way of joy, harmony and life.

Theological basis

Genesis reminds us that all are created in God's image (Genesis 1.26); Jesus encourages and challenges us to grow into God's likeness. To grow into God's likeness is to Live the Mission of Jesus, stepping out in faith and joy on this journey of growth, in which we are reminded that in the best we do, our service and liberty are found through sharing his yoke (Matthew 11.28-30). For the redemption of the world is found in the saving work of Jesus Christ and our salvation is bound up in that of our neighbour's, and both are gift and grace.

This world is God's good creation. Our sights have been drawn too often to those things which attract and distract us from the goodness of the earth, the beauty of the world. Attending afresh to the Eden voice of God will involve a penitence; a turning away from all that harms us and God's creation and turning back to the source of life in all its fulness (John 10.10).

As we return, we are increasingly discovering that the fifth mark of mission - to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth - grounds us and orientates all the other four: proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom; teaching new believers; responding to human need; and seeking to transform unjust structures. All Five Marks are included in living the mission of Jesus.

God who makes all things new (Revelation 21.5), calls our attention to the urgency of certain priorities (Isaiah 43.19), calls us to companionship (John 17.23), to be co-workers in bringing the good news that all things are redeemable, for as Leviticus reminds us, God's redemption applies both to the land and the people (Leviticus 25.24-28). As humans, we have a God-given responsibility for the future of life, and as Christians, to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Our net zero target

At its February 2020 meeting General Synod passed a motion to *'call upon all parts of the Church of England, including parishes, BMOs [Bishop Mission Orders], education institutions, dioceses, cathedrals, and the NCIs [National Church Institutions], to work to achieve year-on-year reductions in emissions and urgently examine what would be required to reach net zero emissions by 2030 in order that a plan of action can be drawn up to achieve that target.'*

We support the ambition and urgency of this call which we will strive to achieve, whilst recognising the limits of our powers and finances to ensure or control all desired outcomes. Having begun to ascertain the challenges across each area of our diocesan life we have identified the following major constraints:

- The fabric of our diocesan offices at Wolvesey
- The construction of many of our schools
- The likely cost of energy-efficient changes in our church buildings, in particular in relation to heating systems

As a Diocese we are conscious we are mutually accountable as well as corporately responsible for reaching the zero emissions target by 2030. Each department of our diocesan organisation will be asked to report annually to Synod on its year-on-year reductions in emissions. We shall work to support our parishes in their reductions and monitor their progress.

Contextual comment

In recent years public consciousness of both the effects and seriousness of climate change has risen strongly. The international and national response generally has strengthened. The UK Government has introduced legislation calling for at least a 100% reduction of greenhouse gases against the 1990 benchmark, a net zero target by 2050¹. In our own area Basingstoke & Deane; Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole; Eastleigh; Hampshire; Test Valley and Winchester councils have passed resolutions declaring a climate emergency². Businesses are increasingly including climate change risks in their processes and incorporating sustainability management. Organisations have announced climate action plans, the National Trust, for example, aiming for net zero by 2030³. These targets have varying degrees of planning behind them; however, they are all clearly signalling a direction of travel.

In our Diocesan vision we are committed to 'Living the Mission of Jesus' and making a real difference through our strategic priorities of growing authentic disciples; reimagining the Church; being agents of social transformation and belonging together in Christ; practicing sacrificial living and good stewardship of all that God has entrusted to us. There is a clear call on us to ensure we live out our vision with an integrity in the context of the climate and wider environmental emergencies.

¹ <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8590/CBP-8590.pdf>

² <https://www.climateemergency.uk/blog/list-of-councils/>

³ <https://theenergyst.com/national-trust-commits-to-net-zero-by-2030/>

Our Diocesan response so far

What does fulfilling our calling mean in practice? At diocesan and parish level we are already engaged in working out responses to the climate challenge:

- 112 churches are signed up to Eco Church⁴ with 12 (including our cathedral) having achieved a silver award and 12 bronze.
- We have a bronze Eco Diocese award and are working towards silver.
- 62 of our parsonages and clergy properties have solar panels fitted.
- Our 100 Church Schools have explored our call to care for creation through stewardship resources and the 2019 Bee Inspired project.
- Some of our churches have had energy audits and many are making efficiency improvements as a result.
- One church, St John's, Hartley Wintney, is already at net zero.
- The majority of our parishes are using a renewable tariff, e.g. in Parish Buying's Green Energy Basket, both for their churches and other buildings.

Our Commitment

- We⁵ will take our environmental impact and use of resources fully into account in our work, worship, study, education, preaching, training, outreach, pastoral care, travel, administration, projects, programmes and investments.
- We will embrace more and more a spirit of Christian joy and fullness of life – taking delight in frugality, cultivating simplicity with celebration, moving with the rhythms of the week and of the seasons, invoking the Spirit of Life in Christ in our worship and in transforming prayer.
- We will strive to adapt our own lives, to the point where we become fully sustainable in all we do, in harmony with the natural world which God created. We will encourage all church members to consider their impact on the environment, in their individual and family lives.
- We will seek to increase the awareness and understanding of environmental issues in our communities throughout our Diocese, and in the wider world; committed to growing our own understanding through education, training and prayer.
- We accept our responsibility towards young people, and to minority groups; and our God-ordained responsibilities as humans to other living creatures.
- We also recognise that the efforts we commit to will have to be sustained by our successors after we are gone; and we will seek to promote the generational change to make this possible.

⁴ <https://ecochurch.arocho.org.uk/>

⁵ If this paper is adopted by Diocesan Synod 'we' specifically will refer to our Synod, but we trust all in our Diocese will come to own these commitments.

The scope

Within our understanding of General Synod’s commitment, the following are counted within our diocesan scope⁶:

- ‘The diocese’ as governed by Synod, with WDBF as the legal entity
- Institutional entities such as churches and the cathedral⁷, which are governed by canon law and control their own operations but are recognised as part of our Diocese
- Those education institutions (VA schools and diocesan MATs) over which we exercise a measure of management control
- Individuals, whose activities are only counted if reimbursed as part of diocesan business

Operationally, we will need to report on the Scope 1⁸ (heating and combustion) and Scope 2 (purchased electricity-related) emissions for all the buildings owned within our organisational scope. Organisations are also asked voluntarily to report on what are called ‘Scope 3’ emissions. The GHG Protocol standard defines these as “a consequence of the activities of the company [or organisation], but occur[ing] from sources not owned or controlled by [it].”

Organisations have wide discretion to decide which Scope 3 emissions they will include in their footprint. The Church of England is currently considering what would be an appropriate standard – based on what is material (in the sense of accounting for a significant proportion of our emissions), and what is feasibly measurable. Our aim is to provide sufficiently accurate and complete assessment of our emissions to help us plan to become genuinely zero carbon, and to maintain our credibility in pressing for others to do the same. At present we are looking at:

- Our diocesan offices, including its energy use and emissions associated with waste disposal, water and procurement
- Reimbursed diocesan and parish travel
- Schools’ procurement
- Parish procurement

Clergy housing is a complex area. Our diocese is legally responsible for maintaining the buildings, but management of them (and at times the ownership of them) is the province of clergy, and the emissions are therefore partially also the result of personal choices and form part of

⁶ We use the word ‘scope’ as the nature of the Church of England means that many parts have a degree of autonomy beyond WDBF control. Influence and mutual accountability exist across our diocese but not direct control. See appendix 2

⁷ Where churches are mentioned in this document we include our cathedral. However, separate national guidance is to be provided for cathedrals due to their unique circumstances.

⁸ The Church of England definition of ‘net zero carbon’ and its approach to measuring it have three specific areas of inclusion/Scope. These are outlined in the appendix.

personal data. It would be possible to ask clergy to fill in a carbon footprinting tool similar to the existing tool for churches. Another options would be to accept the diocese's responsibility for making clergy houses as energy efficient as possible and using energy surveys of the houses to determine a 'reasonable rate' of energy usage that would stand as a proxy for actual use.⁹

Actions 2020 - 2024

Measurement

- Establishing our current baseline across the areas included in our commitment is recognised as a challenge as we do not have systems to measure this in every aspect. We shall seek to discover and apply the best methodology we can find.

Measuring year-on-year cuts cannot be delayed so we will seek to:

- Monitor energy usage, waste management and water usage and establish a protocol for measuring procurement-related emissions in our diocesan office
- Ask all churches to use the nationally provided Energy Footprint tool to measure building usage emissions for their churches, church halls and other ancillary buildings for which they are responsible
- Encourage churches to have energy audits, as these, in addition to giving a basic figure for energy use also show how the energy is being used, where reductions may be possible and what technologies may be suitable to make those reductions
- Encourage churches to engage with the new '360 carbon calculator', a joint project of A Rocha, Climate Stewards and the Church of England, which will enable them to get a clear picture of the emissions associated not only with their buildings, but also with their activities.
- Using Display Energy Certificates to measure the energy use by VA and VC schools, and encouraging schools to have audits to give a more detailed breakdown as for churches
- Conducting a survey of our properties through our vacancy letting and Quinquennial Inspection process, to a level that will both enable us to have EPC certificates for each property and to do more detailed assessments of where improvements can be made
- Establishing a baseline for mileage and public transport usage (based on 2019 DBDF expense claim forms) and ensuring our systems provide the information we need for accurately assessing the emissions associated with mileage

⁹ The Church of England guidance does not include the following within the 2030 target: Travel of staff, clergy and volunteers to and from their usual place of work or ministry. The travel of the public to and from church, school, and church events. Clergy family's & residents' GHG emissions (consumer goods, travel, holidays). The energy used to heat and light the housing, if over the average reasonable use above. Personal GHG emissions from the lives of worshippers attending church, other church users (such as people attending a choir or playgroup), and overseas visitors Voluntary Controlled Schools (which are fully controlled by Local Authorities)

- Working within guidelines determined by the Church Commissioners to determine a sensible way of assessing and reporting emissions associated with our investments

Diocesan Office

- Net zero targets to be an integrated and essential consideration as new working arrangements and protocols are established at Wolvesey.

Clergy Housing

- Quinquennial inspections of properties to include a detailed assessment of where improvements can be made
- Due consideration to be given to changing clergy housing where the properties are deemed too inefficient for reasonable and cost effective energy improvements to be made
- Those clergy who have yet to change, to be encouraged to switch to renewable tariffs

Schools

- We will make use of free or low-cost energy audit opportunities for schools and actively pursue government loan funds and grant funding where appropriate
- We will seek to work with local authorities and other partners in exploring the possibility for low-carbon heating solutions wherever possible
- We will celebrate church schools' work in environmental activities and seek to promote closer collaboration in this area with their parishes and communities

Churches

- We will continue to encourage all churches to conduct an energy audit and identify improvements they can make¹⁰
- Our DAC will provide guidance on best practice for greater energy efficiency in all relevant aspects of our church buildings
- Where faculties are sought, our DAC will actively encourage applications which lead to optimal energy efficiency and provide information about reliable providers and possibilities for grant funding
- We will push harder for all churches to sign up to Eco Church¹¹ and improve their Eco Church award status

¹⁰ Two guidance documents available to all churches: <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/the-practical-path-to-net-zero-carbon-for-churches-FINAL-April-2020.pdf> and <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-12/Energy%20-%20Economic%2C%20Environmental%20and%20Efficiency%20%20Guidelines.pdf>

¹¹ <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

Travel

- In the light of the Covid-19 experience we will encourage diocesan and parochial consideration of the need for travel for meetings and training purposes where technology offers other options
- We will encourage lift sharing to diocesan meetings and the accessibility and option for using public transport where possible
- We will consider introducing EV charging points at Wolvesey and clergy properties, and will encourage parishes to explore this option in all suitable sites
- We will consider the necessity and frequency for air travel (particularly associated with our diocesan companion links) and aim to offset air travel for which our diocese is paying

Off-setting

- Every church and constituent of our diocese will be encouraged to continue to make every effort to reduce emissions and where they cannot currently reduce, to offset residual emissions through an efficient approved greenhouse gas offsetting scheme

School of Mission

- Our BCM Creation Care will seek to strengthen environmental missional impact through our parishes and equip Eco Champions for parishes and deaneries
- Higher priority to all that contributes to the Church of England's net zero commitment will be incorporated into lay and ordained training pathways

Diocesan Environment Group

- Will continue to monitor best practice in the Church of England and where possible elsewhere and in conjunction with the national team share this across our diocese
- Will continue to build up our network of parochial Eco Champions
- Will work with the Bishop on opportunities to implement greater awareness, learning and action in climate care
- Will encourage churches to participate in times set aside for prayer, particularly Creationtide and in 2021 the UK wide Climate Sunday initiative

Our Diocese

- The DBF will review its land holdings to assess potential financial value versus potential carbon offset value

- Will collaborate with representatives of other Christian denominations, as well as other faiths and secular bodies that actively share our concern for the environment

Resources

Whilst diocesan paid staff to help resource us in this area is attractive and historically has proved to be of good value, the challenge of net zero by 2030 will only be realisable when all and each of us take a share in the responsibility and delivery of the change needed. From our diocesan departments to our parish churches, together we need to be mutually accountable, supportive and encouraging so that as a Christian body we bear witness to this mission priority and the values underlying it.

Currently we have not dedicated any financial resources to the task we face. As the particular challenges become clear we may want to revisit this when we are more aware of the impact of focused funding. Wherever possible we should look to work with partners.

Standards and Accountability

We will comply with all applicable statutory requirements. We will seek to match our performance to the highest relevant standards of good practice. We will report to Synod every year on progress in relation to this policy.

Approximately every two and a half years we will review our aims and targets and this policy, according to available information and standards, based on the best available scientific evidence, and national policy of the Church of England, and report to the next available Diocesan Synod meeting in accordance with the above.

Richard Brand 15/11/20

APPENDIX 1

Defining terms

- “Carbon” is used as useful short-hand for the emissions of carbon dioxide and a bundle of other greenhouse gases, generated by the activities of an organisation.
- Each activity (turning on a light, warming a radiator, driving a mile, buying a ream of paper) has a certain amount of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) associated with it. The sum of all of these over a time period are an organisation’s greenhouse gas emissions for that period. They are generally measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, or tCO₂e. (The “equivalent” is because some greenhouse gases have more warming impact than others, so they are bundled together using agreed factors that reflect this.)
- When we talk about “net zero carbon” we mean that;
 - the greenhouse gas emissions of that organisation have been radically reduced to a low level, by cutting waste and reducing energy use, and
 - the remaining “residual” emissions have been reduced (by purchasing energy from renewable sources, from the ‘spare’ electricity we generate and export from solar panels and other renewables, and through offsetting such as tree planting or other forms of carbon capture), so that
 - the organisation’s net greenhouse gas emissions are therefore now “net zero”.

Scopes 1, 2, and 3

These are established by the international Greenhouse Gas Protocol¹², with a set of standard definitions used by all sectors for carbon emission reporting;

- Scope 1: Direct GHG emissions. Scope 1 covers all direct GHG emissions by an organisation. It includes fuel combustion, company vehicles and fugitive emissions (leaks). In our context, this mainly means the gas and oil being burned in our buildings for heating (churches, offices, housing and schools), and the petrol / diesel used for reimbursable work travel.
- Scope 2: Electricity indirect GHG emissions. Scope 2 covers indirect GHG emissions from consumption of purchased electricity, heat or steam. In our context, this mainly means the grid electricity we use in our buildings (churches, offices, housing, and schools).
- Scope 3: Other indirect GHG emissions. Scope 3 covers other indirect emissions, such as the extraction and production of purchased materials and fuels, transport-related activities in vehicles not owned or controlled by the reporting entity, electricity-related activities (e.g. transmission and distribution (T&D) losses) not covered in Scope 2, outsourced activities, waste disposal, etc. In our context, this means ‘everything else’ ... all the things we purchase, water use, waste disposal, how the public get to and from church / school.

¹² <https://ghgprotocol.org/>

There are some very important things to understand about scopes 1 to 3:

- Scopes 1 and 2 are the things most directly under our control, and easiest to measure. They are generally the place to start, when reducing emissions.
- However, most of our emissions may be scope 3; typically 90% of an organisations' emissions are scope 3 (although the CoE is far from 'typical'!).
- We are linked in a web. Our scope 3 emissions are someone else's scope 1 emissions. For example, the miles a parishioner drives to church are their scope 1 but our scope 3. The emissions associated with a ream of paper in our office printer is our scope 3, but the paper factory's scope 1&2.

APPENDIX 2

DIOCESAN NET ZERO 2030

Eco Action Plan

Phase 1 – Groundwork 2020 to 2022

Start Date	End Date	Action	Prepare Approve Deliver	Measure of success	Resources & Support
Sept. 2020	Dec. 2020	Eco Action Plan to be drafted	P: Ad Win./DoO A: BST/BCSC D: DEG	Plan is approved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review plans from other dioceses such as Oxford and London
Aug 2020	Nov 2020	DAC adopt Eco Guidance for recommendation to the Chancellor	P: DAC Sec./DEG A: DAC/Chancellor D: DAC Team	Positive feedback from PCCs on the clarity and helpfulness of the guidance in preparing faculty applications etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diocese of Gloucester guidance. Church Care website Expertise of DAC Team and DAC members
March 2021	March 2021	Diocesan Synod Adopt Eco Action Plan	P: DEG A: Diocesan Synod D: All	Plan is approved with strong majority.	
Nov 2020	December 2021	70% of PCCs registered with Eco Church	P: DEG A: DEG D: Parish Support	No. & % of PCCs registered – monitored during the year to ensure steady increase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco Church. Comms channels

Nov 2020	December 2021	30% of PCCs to have completed a carbon footprint audit through online parish returns website	P: DEG A: DEG D: Parish Support	No. & % of PCCs registered – monitored during the year to ensure steady increase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Returns Website
Nov 2020	December 2021	90% PCCs to have moved all electricity over to green deals.	P: DEG A: DEG D: Parish Support	No. & % of PCCs registered – monitored during the year to ensure steady increase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Buying
Oct 2020	Feb 2022	Full review of all EPCs (energy performance certificates) of parsonages and DBF houses to identify least eco-friendly houses. To prepare a detailed 5-year plan for improvement/replacement of least efficient houses.	P: DoO A: Parsonages Board D: Houses Team	Overall energy efficiency of all DBF properties increases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing processes and internal expertise.
Jan 2021	June 2021	DBE adopt Eco action plan for schools	P: Education Team A: DBE D: Schools	Guidance is approved	
Jan 2021	June 2021	Energy Audit of Diocesan Office completed, and action plan developed	P: DoO A: CEO D: Parish Support Team	Action plan is delivered by deadlines. (Wolvesey??)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Energy audit scheme Existing expertise within the Team.
Feb 2021	October 2021	Review of all DBF land holdings to assess potential financial value versus potential carbon offset value.	P: DoO A: CEO D: Parish Support Team		<ul style="list-style-type: none">

Phase 2 – Delivery 2023 to 2030

Start Date	End Date	Action	Prepare Approve Deliver	Measure of success	Resources & Support
Jan 2023	Jan 2024	50% of PCCs to achieve Eco Bronze award	P: DEG A: DEG D: Parish Support	No. & % of PCCs achieving award.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco Church
Jan 2023	Jan 2025	10 least efficient houses improved or sold	P: Houses Team A: Parsonages Board D: Houses Team	Replaced or improved houses have significantly improved EPCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPC Quinquennial Inspections
Jan 2023	Jan 2024	10% of PCCs to achieve Eco Silver award	P: DEG A: DEG D: Parish Support	No. & % of PCCs achieving award.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco Church
Jan 2023	Jan 2025	90% of PCCs to carry our Energy Audits	P: DEG A: DEG D: Parish Support	No. & % of PCCs carrying our audits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Buying DIY Church energy Audits
Jan 2024	Jan 2025	75% of PCCs to achieve Eco Church Bronze awards	P: DEG A: DEG D: Parish Support	No. & % of PCCs achieving award.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco Church
Jan 2025	Jan 2026	Next 10 least efficient houses improved or sold	P: Houses Team A: Parsonages Board D: Houses Team	Replaced or improved houses have significantly improved EPCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPC Quinquennial Inspections

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Feb 2021

Circles of control

