Using the Energy Footprint Tool (EFT)

What is the Energy Footprint Tool (EFT)?

EFT is a national Church of England tool for churches to record their energy use and calculate their carbon emissions. It forms part of online Annual Parish Returns.

Measuring our carbon footprint is an early step in reducing our emissions and therefore our contribution to climate change – a vital part of caring for God's creation.

Each year, churches are asked to enter their energy figures from the previous year. Once a church has entered all its data, it immediately receives a report and results via computer or smartphone. This includes:

- The church's carbon footprint in CO2e (carbon dioxide equivalent)
- A simple assessment (in graphical form) of their buildings' efficiency.

Why do we need the EFT?

In 2020, the Church of England set itself the target of achieving net zero carbon (CO2e) by 2030. The diocese needs to track our progress by measuring churches' use of energy, and the EFT calculates emissions of CO2e from those measurements.

The bulk of churches' emissions comes from the energy used by our buildings (mainly electricity and gas for light and heat). The energy use of church buildings therefore needs to be radically reduced, while still keeping the church warm and well-lit, which means making our buildings more efficient.

Diocesan results

The highest EFT annual return rate for churches in the Winchester Diocese was 57%, but that dipped substantially last year. Also, some entries were begun but not completed. We want to make it easier for every church make good use of EFT, and get complete results. We need all churches to complete this!

A warm thank you to every church, incumbent and church officer who contributes to submitting their figures each year.

How to use the EFT

Instructions are found [here](#)

Annual Parish Returns can be found at [Parish Returns.](#)
Log in at [Annual Returns Online](#). Just enter your Username and Password and you'll be into the system, ready to go. Any problems, contact jayne.tarry@winchester.anglican.org

Energy-use figures can be taken either from energy bills for the whole year, and/or meter readings from the beginning and end of that year. It is helpful to have those bills or readings to hand before logging in.

Energy can be reported in kilowatt-hours (kWh) or the volume on the meter (cubic metres for metric meters, 100s of cubic feet for old imperial meters). If these figures are not available, it is possible to report the cost. Either quantity or cost is sufficient. However, it is helpful to enter both: this helps the system to estimate one from the other for those who have only put in quantity, or only cost.

IF THAT IS ALL YOU CAN MANAGE, THAT WILL SUFFICE! HOWEVER, IF YOU CAN TACKLE THE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, THAT WOULD BE USEFUL!

Efficiency compared to building use

To access EFT's efficiency assessments for a church, it helps to have completed the Statistics for Mission sections in your annual return. Some of this data is used by EFT – it will just pop up pre-completed when going on to EFT.

Efficiency compared to building size

In addition, a floor area for the church in square metres is needed (= square feet divided by 10). That can be estimated from a plan or by the church's Quinquennial Inspector. The Church of England already has this data for many churches. If they do have it for the building(s) being reported, the number will just pop up in the right box. If that figure is not correct, the entry can be amended.

Church halls

Once figures for the church building have been entered, any hall or other building with its own meters should also be reported on. A separate page or pages are provided for that purpose, and the system directs you to the right place.

Solar panels

The size of, and any generation by, solar panels on your church or hall roof should be reported. The system works out gross energy and CO2e, then nets the figures by subtracting any electricity exported from solar panels.

Green energy and offsetting

The system also subtracts green energy from net figures. Green electricity (and, rarely, green gas) figures are taken from a short list of utilities and tariffs that have been examined by the Church of England.

It is also possible to report any extra offsetting included in an energy tariff. This is accounted separately from your gross and net footprints worked out as above.

Work-related travel

Information on work-related travel may also be entered, to estimate its carbon footprint.
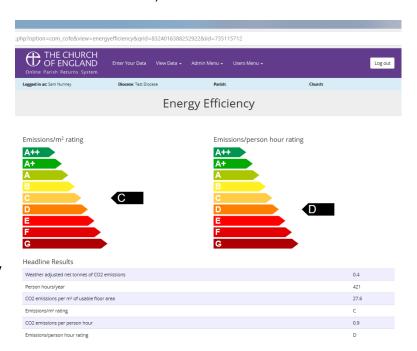
Submitting figures

If not all the data needed is to hand, it is possible to save and come back later – but don't forget to come back and complete your entries!

Once entries are complete, and the 'Submit' button is clicked, the church's read-out is returned.

What do you get out of it?

The Energy Footprint Tool will tell your church the amount of carbon produced annually by heating and lighting your church buildings. There are two useful graphs that show you your efficiency scores: one for energy efficiency based on building size, and one based on attendance. It can take account of separate buildings such as church halls, as long as you have the utility bills for them.

More information and resources

If you have any questions or need help with this, contact Jayne.tarry@winchester.anglican.org