



Your findings  
will help inform  
carbon reducing  
projects



Understand your  
energy use



Take first steps  
as a church on  
your eco journey



# Energy Footprint Tool

The Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) is now open. Please complete your entry **before the end of July 2024**.

## WHAT IS THE ENERGY FOOTPRINT TOOL AND WHY IS IT HELPFUL?

The Energy Footprint Tool will tell your church the amount of carbon produced annually by heating and lighting your church buildings, based on the energy data you provide. It can take account of separate buildings such as church halls, as long as you have the utility bills for them. The tool also offers some helpful tips to reduce your carbon emissions. Using the tool each year will help you to track the impact of the different steps you are taking to reduce your carbon footprint.

The Energy Footprint Tool helps build a national picture of our baseline and progress towards becoming net zero carbon by 2030. It also allows you locally to know where you are starting from and how much progress you are making.

There are several grants coming through the National Church to help green your church, make your building more sustainable and save you money on your energy bills and to access the majority of these funds and help your application to be successful it will be a requirement that your EFT has been filled out.

## HOW DO I COMPLETE THE EFT?

You can find the EFT on the online [Parish Returns System](#).

Completing the EFT takes around 20 minutes. This year it has been simplified so the only information you will need to complete your EFT is your 2023 electricity and gas/oil bills and if you completed an EFT last year there is now a feature for you to compare against this previous EFT.

If you are a benefice, Each Church in your parish should be entered separately – and you will only be able to enter one church or one combined church and church hall per EFT entry.

There is a demonstration [on YouTube](#) to help you with filling out the EFT.

# Subsidised Energy Audits

## DO YOU WANT TO REDUCE ENERGY COSTS OR REACH NET ZERO CARBON?

Buildings are expensive to run but an Energy Audit can identify many opportunities to reduce energy costs by specifically identifying and prioritising works. This can be a way for the parish to simply save money on running costs, but it could also be your first step on a journey towards net zero carbon.

## HOW DO I ARRANGE AN AUDIT AND APPLY FOR A SUBSIDY?

Energy Audits are available from Parish Buying. The cost of an Energy Audit is £450+ VAT (an admin fee of £70 +VAT is also due thereby making the total due £520 +VAT).

However, a subsidy of £175 will be applied to your Energy Audit and paid by the Church of England directly to the Supplier bringing your payment down to **£345 +VAT**.

To apply for an energy audit you first need to login to Parish Buying and order/pay for the audit through them. For any difficulties with their website or ordering an audit please contact them on 0800 368 0887 or [energy@parishbuying.org.uk](mailto:energy@parishbuying.org.uk). The auditors will contact you directly to arrange a visit.

After the audit has taken place, to receive a further subsidy of £200 from the Diocese (**reducing your cost to £145 +VAT**), you will need to submit your paid invoice/receipt and energy audit report to [nzc@winchester.anglican.org](mailto:nzc@winchester.anglican.org).

If you have a parish church with a conjoined hall, both buildings will be covered by one audit. Initially, one subsidized energy audit will be available for one church in each parish. However, you can register an interest for additional subsidies to cover other churches and halls within your parish.

**The end of July will be your last chance to apply for a subsidised energy audit so we can reapportion the audits to those churches that have registered interest and would benefit from (an) additional audit(s).**

## I HAVE BOOKED AN ENERGY AUDIT. HOW DO I PREPARE FOR THE UPCOMING VISIT AND WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

An experienced energy surveyor from [Esos-Energy](https://www.esos-energy.com) will carry out an audit of consumption and a review of the building's services and its fabric and review operational and energy management practices. The auditor that will visit you to carry out your report will be very knowledgeable about churches and their consumption.

A visit usually lasts around one to two hours and once completed the report should be ready between three to four weeks after the visit, although the auditor will give advice to you and point out ways to improve your building during the audit.

The types of questions asked:

- What is your minimum background temperature?
- What are your heating timers on?
- What are the age of your boilers?
- What is the size of your congregation?
- What is your daily/weekly occupancy of your building(s)?

Please consider the answers to the above questions before the auditors arrive and have latest energy bills and meter readings available to streamline the visit. A snapshot of your average weekly/monthly bookings would be part of the report, so giving access to your church diary can be helpful. You will also need to seek permissions from groups/preschools that have booked your space on the day of the audit because the auditor may have to access those rooms whilst a booking is taking place and have all keys available to open these areas, especially where the meters are kept.

### HOW WOULD AN ENERGY AUDIT BENEFIT A PROJECT?

When applying for permissions for the project you have in mind you will need to demonstrate why this will benefit your building and what advice you have sought and an audit would be a clear indicator of this. It will help eliminate projects that would be costly but ultimately would have minimal return in terms of lowering energy consumption and reducing costs. An audit sets out improvements that need to be made short-term and can be relatively easy to do (within 12 months), improvements that can be slowly worked on and finalise in the next couple of years and longer term goals that will enable your church to be on the path to net zero by 2030.

**There are several grants coming through the National Church to help green your church, make your building more sustainable and save you money on your energy bills and to help your application to be successful it may be a requirement that you have an audit commissioned.**