

# Church Energy Audit Grants Information and Eligibility Guide

## What's an Energy Audit?

Energy Audits are a useful tool for parishes at working to make their buildings warmer, more efficient and reduce their carbon footprint. A contractor will visit your building and look at your building usage (both in terms of services/weekly activities and hirers), utility bills, heating system and other parts of the building fabric. They'll then make recommendations on steps you can take to improve your efficiency. These might include:

- Upgrading to LED lightbulbs
- Introducing insulation
- Installing heating controls
- Draught proofing
- Upgrading heating systems

These are some of the actions they might recommend. Each report will be specific to each building.

Alongside the recommendations will be indicative installation costs, running costs and the expected carbon reduction. The report will also include further details about your buildings efficiency, energy consumption and the recommendations.

To see an example energy audit, contact Sam Scott ([sam.scott@winchester.anglican.org](mailto:sam.scott@winchester.anglican.org)). A list of auditors previously used by parishes can be found at the end of this guide.

## A note on heating upgrades

These reports are a helpful first step for parishes looking to make their building more efficient. They provide a high-level overview of the steps a PCC can take. However, more detail would be required for projects like installing a new heating system or modifying an existing system (particularly for the faculty process). For this type of project a heating options/feasibility report might be useful.

## How much do audits cost?

Audit costs can range from £500-£1000. The cost of an audit depends on the size and context of the building. Audits for sites which include a church hall that is disconnected from the church building will often require a separate audit with a separate fee.

## What grant funding is available and how can I apply?

A grant of up to £500 is available for parishes to put towards an energy audit. To ensure wide access to the grant, a parish can only apply for one of these grants in a 12 month period.

To apply for an energy audit you'll need:

- The estimated cost from the audit company.
- To have completed the Energy Footprint Tool for 2025.
- To commit to sharing your future plans following the audit (e.g. will you upgrade your LEDs or introduce new insulation as a result of the audit).

To access the application form, [click here](#).

Once you've submitted your application, we'll aim to reply to you within one week to let you know the outcome of your application.

### Drawing down the grant

Grants will be awarded by the Diocese from monies provided by the Archbishops Council through the Church of England Net Zero Programme.

To draw down grants, parishes must sign a grant agreement and invoice Winchester Diocesan Board of Finance. Grants may be drawn down following the audit by submitting proof of cost from the auditor (e.g. a bill or invoice) and an invoice for the grant amount.

### Finding an auditor

The Winchester Diocese team don't make recommendations on which companies PCC's contract. However, below is a list of auditing firms that have been used previously by parishes. **PCC's should do their own due diligence before contracting an auditor.**

Contractors used by PCC's in the diocese and around the country for energy audits:

- **Inspired Efficiency** - [www.inspiredefficiency.co.uk/](http://www.inspiredefficiency.co.uk/)
- **Greener Edge** – [www.greener-edge.co.uk/](http://www.greener-edge.co.uk/)
- **ESOS Energy** - [www.esos-energy.com/](http://www.esos-energy.com/)

These are not recommendations. When considering an auditor PCC's should do due diligence and consider the auditors experience with historic buildings.

### Things to consider

When considering and speaking to an auditor, some things you may want to discuss are:

- **The aim and scope of an audit** - What the PCC is looking to achieve (e.g. a plan for improving your buildings efficiency)? Be clear with potential auditors about the layout of your site, particularly if you have detached buildings (like a church hall) as this may impact cost.
- **Any specific issues or upcoming projects** - You may also want to discuss any issues or upcoming projects (e.g. heating or lighting upgrades) that you may want particular detail on.

- **Age of your building** - It's important to explain the age of your building to the auditor to ensure they have experience working with and are able to speak to the particular issues historic buildings have.

### Any Questions

If you have any questions, please contact Sam Scott (Diocesan Environment Officer):  
[sam.scott@winchester.anglican.org](mailto:sam.scott@winchester.anglican.org).