

Environment and Net Zero Update

Diocesan Synod November 2025

Context

For consecutive years, this report has set out the evidence-based urgency of the climate and nature crisis. Records continue to be broken¹, as we live through unprecedented extreme weather events and global temperature rises. A National Emergency Briefing is being planned the week after this Synod, to discuss the risks of climate impacts in the areas of national security, food security, finance, health impacts and more.² Only a few months ago an Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) report set out the increasing costs of climate impacts to the UK, putting it at 8% of GDP by the 2070s, should we continue on the current path.³

And this is against a backdrop of an issue that is becoming dangerously weaponised, and politicised. The backlash against the renewable transition has become more vocal amongst influential figures, at a time when courageous and united leadership is desperately needed.

And yet, despite this, public support for climate action is high. A recent report by Climate Outreach indicated that 74% of the UK think climate action is important⁴. A separate report by the University of Oxford put that figure at nearly 70% and, importantly, highlighted that this figure is grossly underestimated by policymakers, politicians and other policy officials.⁵

The work happening across our churches, schools, clergy houses, and diocesan operations tell of this story of quiet climate action. From the retrofit of 100 clergy properties to our 50th Silver Eco Church, from school solar panels to pupil-led climate campaigns, the story is of a diocese seeking to live out the fifth mark of mission in all aspects of life, work and worship. We do this because we love God, we love His good creation, and we love our neighbour as ourselves. The examples shared in this report can give hope, inspiration and encouragement, and invite everyone to join in with this journey.

“For the earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world and all who live in it, for he founded it on the seas, and established it on the waters.” Psalm 24: 1-2

Creation care across the diocese

Our mission, as stated in our Environmental Policy, is to incorporate care for creation in the life and work of all parts of our diocese, as part of the wider diocesan mission to become a more Christ-like church for the sake of God’s world. We aim to equip every part of the diocese to respond to the current climate and ecological crisis.

¹ [Summer 2025 is the warmest on record for the UK - Met Office](#)

² [National Emergency Briefing on climate & nature](#)

³ [Fiscal risks and sustainability – July 2025 - Office for Budget Responsibility](#)

⁴ [Report - Climate Outreach](#)

⁵ [Oxford researchers find policymakers underestimate public support for climate action | University of Oxford](#)

Over the last year creation care has been celebrated in so many ways:

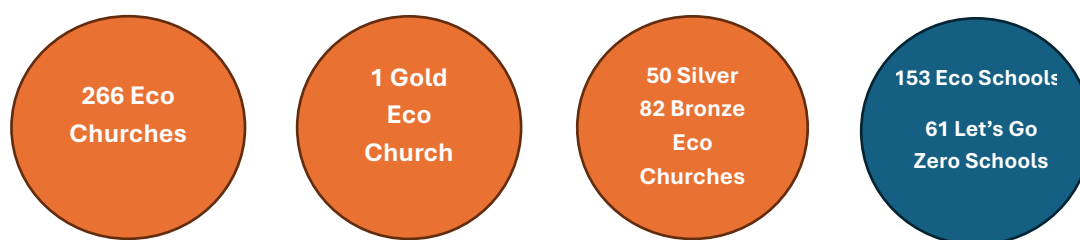
- A community Eco Fair at St Mary's, Burghfield
- Church recycling hub for the local community at All Saints Church, Boyne Hill
- A Wild World area at Marlow Infant School as part of their Eco School commitment
- Partnership with Green Gym at St George's Wolverton to support churchyard management for wildlife
- Installation of solar panels on a Grade II* listed St Mary Magdelene, Woodstock and at High Wycombe School where the panels are also used as a curriculum tool for learning about the environment
- Net zero carbon heating installations at Christ Church Abingdon, Holy Trinity Sibford, St Mary's Adderbury, and St John's Burford, among others.
- Church funded solar panels at St John's Church of England Primary School, Lacey Green.
- Garden area at Binfield School where children are growing fruit and vegetables to use in the school kitchen

This is just a snapshot of the incredible work of dedicated volunteers, deanery environmental leads, church leaders, teachers and pupils. Thanks to the 2024 Articles of Enquiry, we found that over one third of churches took part in some form of nature-related activities, whether church rewilding, installing wildlife habitats, or worshipping outdoors. And moreover, that this work is opening up missional opportunities with our schools and local communities:

"The children in the C of E school regularly use the churchyard for educational purposes. We have an area of the churchyard which is not mowed to allow wildflowers and plants to grow."

"We have set aside sections of the churchyard to re-wilding and have recently installed an owl box. We are in the process of investigating the feasibility of swift boxes. We have a local Nature Network and will be working in conjunction with them to develop a written churchyard plan."

We now have:



As a diocese, we have continued to support and enable parishes, schools and individuals to respond. Over the last year, we have:

- Developed a collective worship resource for World Environment Day for all our schools
- Created a new course on the diocesan Learning Hub, 'Called to Wonder', sharing stories of faith, God and creation
- Collaborated with the local Wildlife Trust, a National Landscape Trust, community foundations and local authorities; and formally supported the Evenlode Landscape Recovery project with our Glebe land

- Hosted a joint Creationtide service with our link diocese in Växjö
- Contributed to the environment day of Kimberley and Kuruman Diocese's Link Summit with Oxford Diocese
- Grown our network of parish eco champions ('Greenshoots') to over 100 individuals.

There is also a wealth of activity happening locally, in so many places by so many people, that often goes unseen. We are grateful for the commitment and hard work that is making a difference to local communities across the diocese.

Net zero carbon

The following 2024 carbon emission reports for ODBF and for our schools set out our progress towards net zero carbon, drawing upon data gathered earlier this year. It remains an enormous challenge, with technical, financial and capacity constraints that all need to be overcome. We give thanks for the work happening at a local level, and while some emissions have gone up slightly in 2024, the momentum behind the programme is building all the time.

Churches

Over 40 individuals attended a church-focused net zero webinar earlier this year to share their learnings, experiences and progress with one another. Twenty churches are proactively drawing up plans for their net zero carbon transition, with one project complete and others now fundraising, and many more are already in the process of installing some form of electric heating system. This is alongside vital maintenance and repair works, supported by the Church Buildings Team, which are essential to keeping a church warm, dry and energy efficient.

Progress against our plan is as follows:

- **Finance:** a funding application to the national church for a Regional Fundraising Officer has been approved, a role we will benefit from in partnership with the dioceses of London, Southwark and Winchester. £60,000 of quick-wins funding from the national church has been awarded to 27 parishes over the last two years, and four churches have been successful in applying to a Boiler Hardship Fund in 2024-2025, supporting them to make the net zero carbon transition
- **Capacity and training:** Advisors to our DAC and Church Buildings Officers attended a heating focused conference this November and net zero carbon peer forums for parishes are running twice a year, with a third this year specifically on solar panels.
- **Planning and priority churches:** 60 energy audits have been delivered in the last 12 months, with almost all of our high-emitting churches audited and now with a pathway to net zero to help with their planning. This includes targeted heating surgeries for those with failing or ageing boilers.
- **Engagement:** alongside our events and webinars, we are sharing positive stories of decarbonisation to inspire others. We ran a 'great switch for creation' campaign this autumn to encourage churches to think about switching their energy tariff to a renewable tariff.

Clergy housing**Property Upgrades**

A further 50 properties have been upgraded to EPC C or above across the portfolio, with improvement measures being undertaken to both vacant and occupied properties, bringing the total number of upgraded properties to 100. Typical improvement measures include solar panels, ASHP, insulation, triple glazing, thermal imaging and airtightness testing.

At the beginning of 2025 there were three properties with an 'F' EPC rating, and this has now been reduced to two. However, this improvement was completed during the occupation of the existing occupant, and the completed measures only improved this property to an EPC D. This process has demonstrated the need to plan the more intrusive works e.g. insulation of ground floors and solid external walls for during a vacancy.

In 2025, we commenced the process of reviewing the viability and potential replacement of the larger parsonages, which has identified some properties where it would be more appropriate to dispose of the property rather than implement the upgrade measures required.

Grants

The team have sought to leverage additional grant funding to support the investment committed by this Synod. We received a national church net zero 'demonstrator' grant of £54,000, grants from the government's Boiler Upgrade Scheme of £157,500, and support from the Dr South Fund of £227,000.

The challenges and the opportunities

Many of the challenges will feel all too familiar. In terms of net zero carbon, we face challenges of funding; the high number of emergency situations and failing boilers; limited local infrastructure; energy markets that don't incentivise the move to electric heating systems; procurement difficulties; and capacity limits – on all sides, whether parish, diocese or among external professionals. And across our broader efforts to embed creation care in all that we do, again local capacity is significant given the mounting pressures on churches to navigate a whole range of priorities.

But there are also some exciting opportunities. The increased level of national resource being invested in fundraising, and new local opportunities for grant funding mean that for some churches, this is going to make a significant difference particularly for net zero carbon. New district heat networks are coming to some of our cities, with opportunities for our churches and schools to connect into these networks. We are learning all the time about how to do things better, and more effectively, and we have a wealth of knowledge and expertise across the diocese to draw upon.

And 2026 will mark the ten-year anniversary of Eco Church. We have come so far in ten years, and this will be a key moment for reaffirming all the work that has gone before and all that is to come. We are looking forward to celebrating this milestone.

The path ahead

There is so much encouragement to take from this report, amidst the challenge. We know what needs to be done, even if we don't always know the how. We can draw on the inspiration and encouragement of so many as we take the next steps – steps which we must take if we are to give God's creation a chance to flourish.

And this encouragement, this hope, is what Christians can offer the world, in a time of uncertainty, fear, division and conflict. The path ahead will not be easy, but Christian discipleship rarely is. To care for creation is to have the courage to do things differently; to have compassion for the world and its inhabitants – inhabitants of all species, not just our own; and to contemplate how our actions, our choices, our decisions, both as individuals and corporately, impact the earth around us.

It is never too late to offer hope.

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer” Romans 12:12

Bishop Mary

Hannah Mann

October 2025

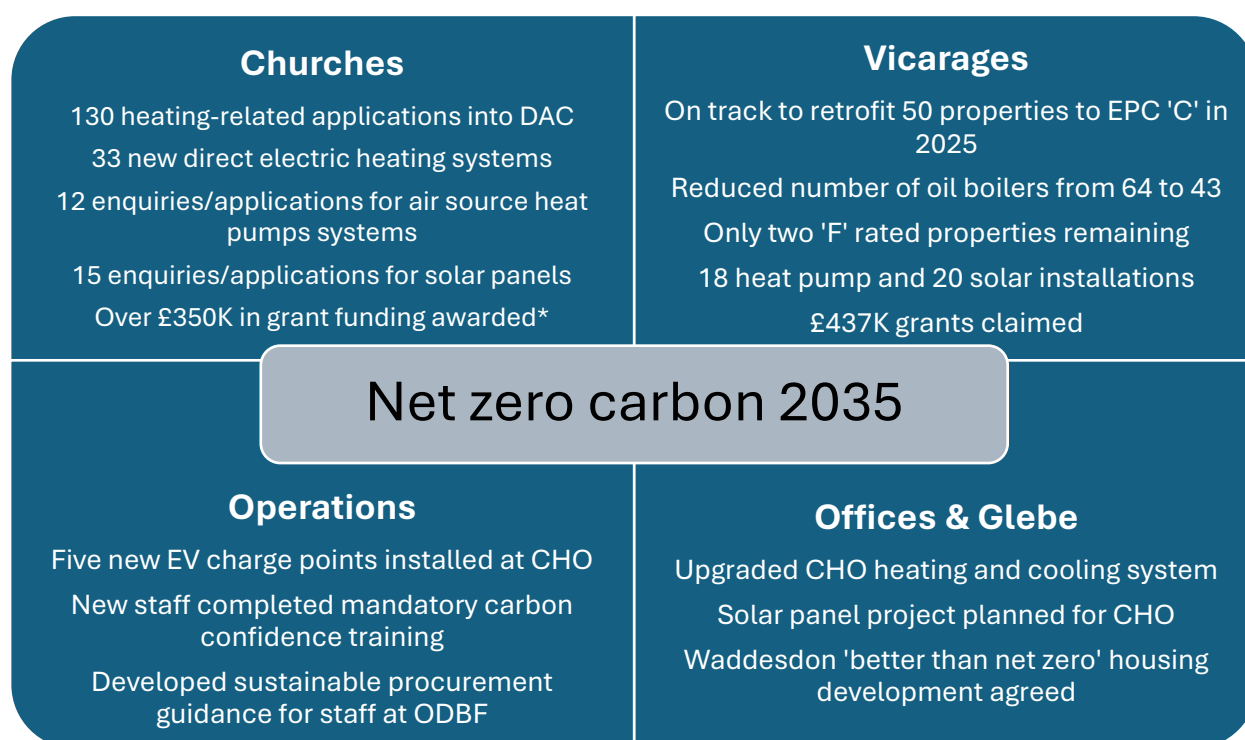
Oxford Diocese Board of Finance

2024 Annual Carbon Emissions Report - November 2025

Executive summary

Despite some mixed carbon emissions figures this year, it has been hugely encouraging to see so many churches, clergy, staff and volunteers engaging positively with the work to move towards net zero carbon. Every property in the diocese represents a unique context, and a unique set of challenges; and learning is being gathered all the time to better inform our work going forwards. The ongoing reduction in carbon emissions across the clergy housing portfolio is a milestone to be celebrated, and puts us ahead of most other dioceses in this area. While church emissions have rebounded slightly, the number of net zero projects and heating applications currently in the pipeline give us confidence that over time, and with better data, we will continue to see a downward trajectory in overall emissions.

Projects completed or in progress since last report (Oct 2024-Oct 2025)



*See appendix 1

The portfolios in this chart are all those which fall into scope of our 2035 net zero carbon target. This scope has been defined in the national Routemap to Net Zero Carbon, and we have slightly widened to include procurement, as we feel this is something over which we have a strong degree of influence. Emissions from – and sequestered by – our land are not yet in scope, although we expect this will change. We also include Diocesan investments in-scope and these

are now fully in line with the current Church of England ESG investment rules, gathering actual carbon data for these is, however, very difficult.

Carbon emissions data up to 2024

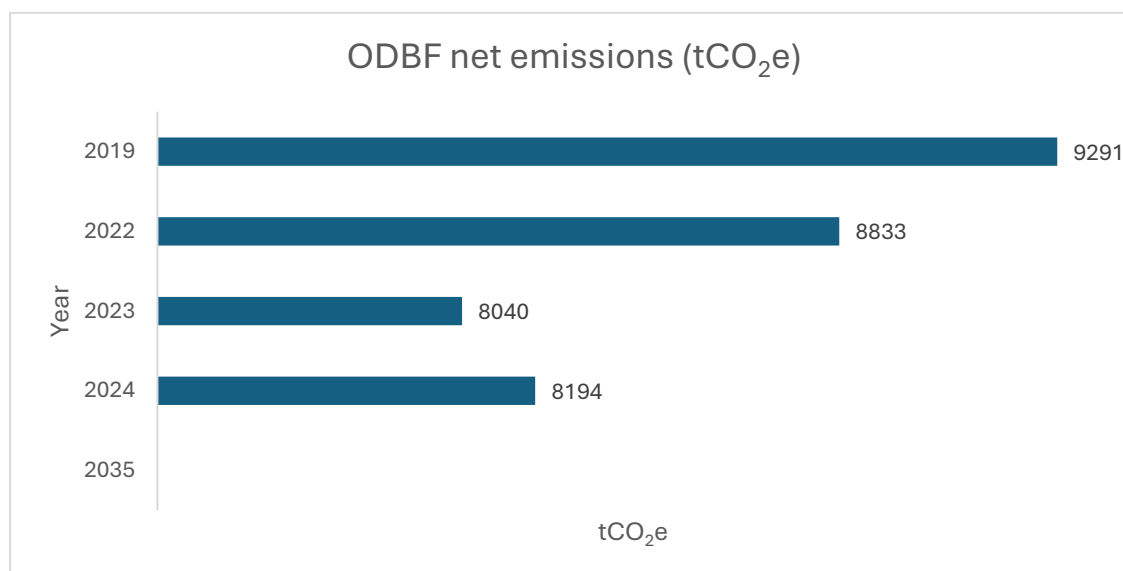
Source	Baseline (2019)	2022	2023	2024
	tCO ₂ e			
Churches	6,150 (gross)* n/a net	5,934 (gross) 5,528 (net)**	5,260 (gross) 4,827 (net)	5,619 (gross) 4,959 (net)
Clergy Housing	2,815	2,815	2,463	2,399
Church halls	n/a included in church data	304 (gross) 253 (net)	529 (gross) 469 (net)	689 (gross) 554 (net)
Offices	96	69	60	55
Staff travel	160	98	155	157
Procurement	70	70	70	70
Totals	9291	9290 (gross) 8833 (net)	8538 (gross) 8040 (net)	8989 (gross) 8194 (net)

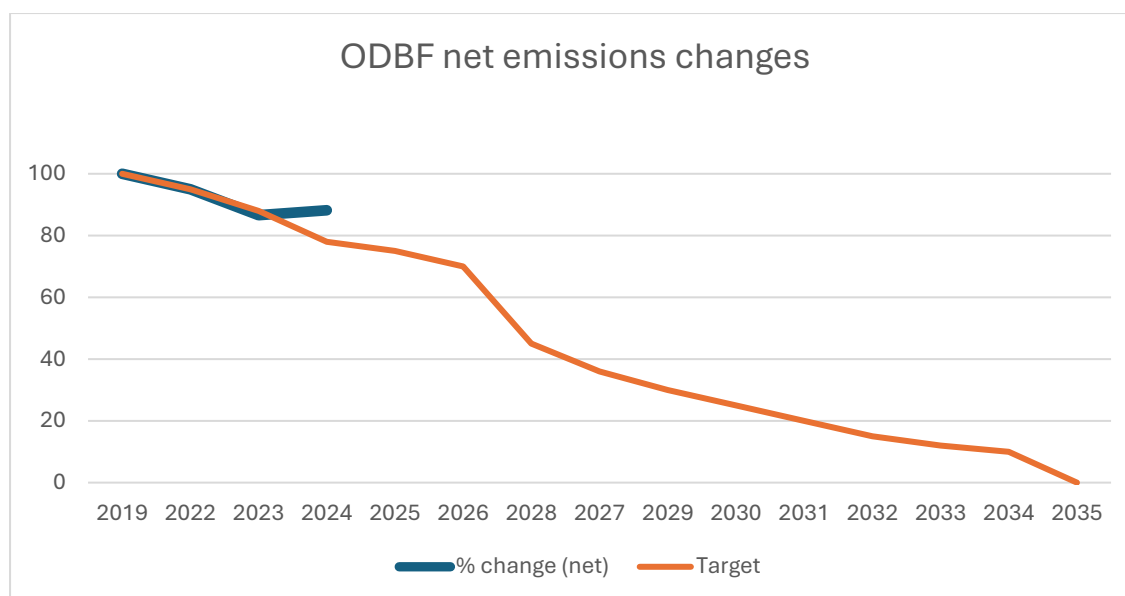
*Gross emissions represent the total amount of greenhouse gases (GHGs) released into the atmosphere by an entity or activity, before any reductions or adjustments are made, such as through carbon offsets or the use of renewable energy certificates

** Net emissions represent the final amount of a substance, such as a greenhouse gas, that remains in the atmosphere after accounting for both the emissions produced and the amount removed or offset by natural or artificial processes

Data charts

Net emissions are used in these charts, as we are aiming for a net zero target





About the data

- Churches:** this year (2024) we received an Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) return rate of 70%. This is lower than for 2023 (77%) and therefore trying to estimate the missing 30% of data has potentially resulted in quite significant inaccuracies. As such, we have amended the methodology and carried over reported data from the previous year where it was missing (if the previous year also had no report, an average use figure per building size class was used). This methodology has now been applied to data from 2023. Some of the variation may also be because we reported church halls within church data in previous years (see below).
- Clergy housing:** the calculations made for clergy housing have been made by looking at the retrofit projects delivered in properties since the original auditing exercise that was carried out in 2020/2021, and deducting the projected carbon emissions reductions using sophisticated software. As we do not collect energy bill data from our clergy, we cannot track emissions in the same way as we would churches, offices, or schools.
- Church halls:** as a result of the way data is collected, this is a new reporting line for 2024. In previous years we have reported 'other church buildings' using estimated data, but it has been decided that many of these originally included do not fall into scope e.g. parish-owned property. This line has been removed, and churches are now asked to separate their church hall data, where the hall is a distinct building. It will take time for this to become the norm, as churches adjust to reporting changes, and work is still to be done on establishing exactly which halls need to be identified and reported on.
- Staff travel:** this figure includes 63 tCO₂ of flights, for which we give a climate contribution to Climate Stewards to support clean energy projects in the global south.
- Procurement:** this remains an estimate, but there is some detail we have gathered, which is outlined in appendix 2. The data we have gathered does show an increase over time but we have kept the estimates in the table the same while we work on refining the data.
- This year, data has not been collected for reimbursed parish travel, so we have removed the data line from the table. This will be collected in future years, as it falls within our Scope 3 reporting.

Data analysis/points to note

Churches and church halls

- Despite an increase in gross emissions of 7% from last year, gross emissions are still down on the 2019 baseline figure by 14%, and net emissions down by 19% (when church halls are a separate reporting line).
- It is unknown exactly why emissions may have gone up since 2023 – a number of factors could have been involved, including a recovery from the worst prices of the energy crisis, encouraging churches to return to former heating periods; an increase or change in usage patterns in the church buildings; or ageing, less efficient boilers.
- More positively, an increasing number of churches are choosing to adopt renewable tariffs, which is having an impact on the % of emissions we can net off from the total. In 2024 we netted off 9% due to renewable energy tariffs, compared to 6% in 2023 and 5% in 2022. 239 churches reported being on a CofE approved renewable energy tariff this year.
- If we count those churches on all-electric heating systems using an approved renewable energy tariff, this would equate to 100 net zero carbon churches that had reported data. A more robust definition is being developed by the Church of England and will be applied to future reporting when available.
- In terms of church halls, different halls have been reported across different years. Only 30 halls have been consistently reported from 2022-2024, and for this group of buildings, emissions rose slightly in 2023 and then fell again in 2024 to roughly where they were.
- In both cases, there will be at least a one year, if not two-year, data lag between churches and church halls that have installed new heating systems in the last six months, and the point at which the emissions savings show up in the data.

Clergy housing

- The clergy housing data is very encouraging and is reflective of the significant investment into the programme. The data represents projects from both the ‘low-hanging fruit’ and the more complex properties.

Offices, procurement and travel

- Travel has more or less remained stable since the return to more normal working patterns following the Covid-19 pandemic.
- However, the percentage of car miles taken by an electric or a hybrid vehicle has increased from 7% in 2023 to 12.5% in 2024.
- We have sought to try and measure some aspects of procurement – namely water use, paper and printing, and catering in the café. See appendix 2. This amounts to 16tCO₂e, slightly higher than the year before. We know there is a huge amount of procurement associated with our contractors and suppliers – particularly in the Property Department – that we have yet to include but will need to be considered as part of our Scope 3 carbon emissions in future.
- The further reduction in energy consumption at our offices is also encouraging. Both Theale and Church House are on a renewable energy tariff, but not a tariff that is on the Church of

England approved list of renewable energy tariffs. This will be one to plan for once the contracts are up for renewal.

Further information

For details on how we arrived at these calculations, please contact the [Environment Team](#). Emissions were calculated using best available data, weather-adjusted, and extrapolating from a reliable sample where necessary, and working with UK government carbon emissions conversion factors for 2024. We are using the national Church of England definition for net zero calculations, which can be found in the [Routemap to Net Zero Carbon](#) on page 68; and therefore, we are not including parish scope 3 (indirect) emissions.

Appendix 1: Grants awarded up to October 2025 (churches)



Appendix 2: Known procurement data

Product type	2022	2023	2024
Water (tCO ₂ e) at CHO*	0.23	0.24	0.23
Paper/printing (tCO ₂ e)	4.1	3.7	6.5
Catering (CHO café) (tCO ₂ e)**	8.95	9.3	9.5
Totals	13.28	13.24	16.23

* The Theale office had no water bills from opening until mid-2025, then a back-dated charge so can't allocate to years yet.

** An average week's purchases for café (not events) from early September multiplied by 45 open weeks (so indicative only)

Schools (ODBE, ODST, ODBST)

Annual environment and net zero carbon annual report for 2024

Executive summary

The Oxford Diocesan Board of Education has climate action as one of the four key strands of their strategy. It has committed to work across all parts of the organisation, and is supporting its 284 schools consider the contribution they can make to the climate emergency – whether practically through managing the buildings, or through supporting staff embed sustainability across the curriculum.

This year, we are reporting separately on the work happening across our schools, given the significant differences in scope, complexity, approach and funding timelines. It has been hugely encouraging to see the number of net zero carbon projects delivered over the last twelve months, which will take another year to start showing up in our carbon emissions data but are already benefitting our schools. There are further important projects on the horizon for 2026, although this is against a backdrop of an increasingly challenging financial climate and an end to the government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS). But more importantly, the examples shared in this report are testament to the commitment of our schools to making a difference, and the inspiration they can be across the whole diocese and beyond.

Projects completed this year, September 2024-September 2025

This year we have delivered numerous carbon reduction capital projects across our schools. These include:

- Air-to-air source heat pumps
- Air-to-water heat pumps
- Installation of Insulation
- Installation of point-of-use hot water heaters
- Installation of solar panel arrays
- LED lighting replacement schemes
- EV charge points installation
- Window and door upgrades

In September 2024, we opened a new zero-carbon school in Bicester.

These projects have been delivered using very limited capital funding alongside the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding (which is no longer available). These projects been delivered alongside a large programme of essential capital works to rectify urgent building, health and safety and safeguarding issues.

See appendix 1 for a list of completed projects.

Schools that fall in-scope

As indicated in last year's report⁶, we are now working to the new national church definition of schools that fall in-scope of our net zero carbon target. This definition is set out in the national Routemap to Net Zero Carbon⁷, and includes any school over which the DBE has a 'significant degree of influence' at a governing body level, i.e. majority membership on the governing board. The changes in the number of schools we are reporting against are indicated in the table below.

It is important to highlight that the number of in-scope schools have increased (including some secondary schools). As such, we will expect to see a significant increase in gross non-electric kWh consumption.

With the installation of more zero-carbon heating systems, we would expect to see a large increase in the gross electric kWh consumption.

Schools energy data

	2019 (baseline)	2022	2023	2024
Number of schools in-scope	130	133	130	160**
Gross non-electric consumption (kWh)	13,913,498	16,973,955	13,333,278	28,464,371
Gross total consumption (kWh)	19,985,775	23,693,008	19,205,762	38,464,370
Gross carbon emissions (tCO₂e)	5,282	5,867	4,625	9,939
Total pupils*	-	-	-	40,032
Emissions per pupil (tCO₂e)*	-	-	-	0.25
Total estate (m²)*	-	-	-	272,322
Emissions per sq. m (tCO₂e)*	-	-	-	0.036

**This data is being collected for the first time in 2024, as another means by which we can measure the overall improvement in emissions over time, despite a changing/growing number of schools moving into scope.*

***The wider scope definition from the national church results in the higher count of schools for 2024 this also includes a number of secondary schools that were not in scope last year.*

About the data

The data was gathered using several sources; energy consumption figures, Display Energy Certificates (DECs) and then estimated data where neither of these were available. We will be continuing to encourage all schools to be submitting energy consumption figures, as this gives us the most accurate picture. This year the return rate was 53%. Where data isn't available in the table, it wasn't possible to go back and find that data for previous years.

We are only reporting gross carbon emissions figures, not net emissions. None of our schools are currently on energy tariffs that would be counted under the Church of England's list of

⁶ [ods-24-11-environment-annual-update.pdf](#)

⁷ churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/RoutemapToNetZeroCarbonFinal.pdf

approved renewable tariffs⁸. Energy procurement is something that ODBE, ODST and ODBST are continuing to look at carefully, given the delicate balance between affordability and greener options.

We are including the consumption figures for non-electric energy sources (gas, oil, kerosine and LPG), because a reduction in these figures – even as school numbers and overall consumption increases – are a good indicator of the success of the net zero carbon projects being implemented across the schools. These will take sometimes up to two years to show in the data, because of the lag between installation, data collection, and data reporting.

Data analysis

The data suggests the following:

- The impact of a large secondary school academy moving into scope this year has been significant, and partly explains the big jump in carbon emissions. The gas consumption for only one of their three blocks is the second highest emitting site in the diocese.
- KWh consumption tracks changes in numbers of schools, with increases in schools leading to increases in consumption, as expected, although with slight drops in 2023 reflecting the investment in energy efficiency measures.
- There is currently little benchmarking data for schools for emissions intensity. ODBST (13 schools) has calculated an emissions intensity per pupil as 0.17tCO₂e, without a secondary school in their portfolio, which can be compared against our overall figure for emissions per pupil, which is at 0.25 tCO₂e. As we collect this data over time, it will give another indicator of overall trends towards net zero carbon, despite the changing portfolio.

Schools travel data

In previous years we have reported on school travel separately, however this is currently not a national requirement and the data returns we gathered are too small to be accurate. The sample size we did collect (from 45 schools) gave a carbon emissions total of 73.5 tonnes CO₂e, from coach and minibus hire, owned minibuses and school staff reimbursed expenses. This is lower than previous years, but is not reflective because of the lower level of returns.

We will continue to follow national guidance on reporting travel, but will focus our efforts on the school buildings in terms of ongoing decarbonisation.

The challenges and opportunities

The cut to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) funding has serious implications for the planned works to our schools. There is no other significant capital funding available for

⁸ www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/green-energy-companies-and-the-energy-footprint-tool-jan-2025.pdf

schools to address the challenge of decarbonisation, meaning the only potential source is from the Schools' Capital Allocation (SCA) or from Devolved Formula Capital, which is insufficient to cover everything needed especially when schools lack revenue. ODBE is doing significant work on finding alternative funding solutions to enable more carbon reduction projects to take place.

There are a huge number of sites in our portfolio facing major pressing repair issues, which need to be prioritised in order to keep our schools safe for pupils and staff. This, alongside the increasing pressures on staff time and the number of other areas of work they need to be considering, means that work on decarbonisation falls down the list of priorities.

However, amidst the challenges there are some opportunities. Free support has been made available to our DBE staff and schools via the Greater South East Net Zero Hub⁹, and from the Ashden-funded initiative, Let's Go Zero¹⁰, which supports schools develop Carbon Action Plans.

A low carbon district heat network is being planned for Oxford City, with the potential to impact two schools in the early phase. And new funding models for solar panel installations are being explored across the MATs and ODBE.

Sustainability across our schools

Net zero carbon is not the only story as we seek to embed creation care across the life of the diocese. Schools are often exemplars in their community of action on a broad range of sustainability initiatives, which needs to be recognised and celebrated.

ODBST continue to pursue their sustainability policy across their schools, through curriculum activities, procurement and programmes such as Eco Schools. Five schools in the Trust achieved their Eco Schools 'Green Flag' status last year, which is an accreditation acknowledging the work of schools across [all seven areas](#). An Eco Conference was held in July 2025, where schools showcased their work; EV charge points are to be rolled out across all schools; and new contracts across bathroom products, printing, cleaning products and catering are in line with the sustainability policy.

Across ODBE, we have completed a number of projects which support carbon reduction and also to support curriculum within our schools. In some schools we have replaced the heating systems with electric heat pumps, completely removing the need for gas and oil in those schools. In another, we have installed a full solar array and, as part of that install, a display that teachers use to develop the children's understanding of solar generation and its impact on the environment. Other work of note is the adventure trail development where the children now have access to some adventurous external play. As part of that development there is a garden area where the children grow their own vegetables to be used in the school kitchen or for cooking lessons. At another school we have completely developed the EYFS area allowing the younger children to be outside in all weathers. They use this area for learning about the environment as well.

⁹ [Greater South East Net Zero Hub - Accelerating clean local energy projects](#)

¹⁰ [UK Climate Change • Let's Go Zero](#)

Alongside the above, we have developed our website to offer helpful support and resources to schools and this help includes:

- Providing CPD on climate literacy, curriculum design, and carbon reporting.
- Running Eco Leads networks, Eco Weeks, and creative competitions.
- Promoting shared learning through conferences and showcases.
- Encouraging schools to work with parish, parent, and local authority stakeholders

Plans going forward

ODBE has developed an Environmental Policy which was approved in June 2025. This policy gives details on ODBE's commitment to carbon reduction across the estate along with information on the responsibilities of stakeholders and milestones.

ODBE have actively engaged with and started to build effective relationships with energy providers, zero carbon hubs, county councils and numerous other installers and providers of carbon reduction solutions. We are pushing hard to find viable solutions that can support the reduction of carbon across the estate whilst not increasing the costs of energy in our schools.

ODBE is building a strong, achievable plan for carbon reduction across our in-scope schools. We will be doing this by:

- Identifying schools that are in 'most need' of a boiler replacement and where an electric replacement is viable.
- Identifying those schools that are eligible to install a solar array.
- Identify funding options outside SCA and DFC funding.
- Making the best use of all available funding to install as much carbon reduction initiatives as possible.

Capital projects 2026

ODBE has already identified a number of projects which will be prioritised for our 2026 programme. These include projects to install:

- Air Source Heat Pump projects
- Insulation upgrades
- Point-of-use hot water upgrades
- Solar arrays.

ODBE is continuing its investigations into battery storage options alongside options for green energy tariffs for its schools.

Appendix 1 – School Projects 2024-25

Full heating and water system replacement with zero-carbon solution

- St Peter's CofE Primary, Burnham.
- St Mary's CofE Primary, Shinfield
- St Nicolas CofE Primary, Newbury
- Goring CofE Primary
- North Hinksey CofE Primary
- St Mary's CofE Primary, Chipping Norton
- Cookham Dean CofE Primary

Solar Array

- High Wycombe CofE Combined School
- St Mary and John, Oxford

LED lighting

- Bradfield CofE Primary
- Radnage CofE Primary
- Buckingham Park CofE Primary
- Kirtlington CofE Primary
- Cuddington and Dinton CofE Primary

Window and Door Upgrades

- East Claydon CofE Primary
- Enborne CofE Primary
- Shellingford CofE Primary
- Welford and Wickham CofE Primary
- Yattendon CofE Primary

Insulation upgrades

- St Mary's CofE Primary Amersham
- Hazlemere CofE Primary
- Aston Rowant CofE Primary
- St Michaels CofE Primary Easthamptead
- St Peter's CofE Primary Burnham
- St Ebbes CofE Primary, Oxford
- Shiplake CofE Primary
- St Pauls CofE Primary Wooburn Grrn
- Checkendon CofE Primary
- Sulhampstead and Ufton Nervet

Point of use water heaters

- Stockcross CofE Primary

EV charging

- St Mary's Chipping Norton
- Windsor St ERFS