

Quick Wins Fund Round 4 (first of Triennium 2, 2026-29)

Guidance document

Thank you for your interest in this fund. The aim of the Quick Wins Fund is to enable churches to improve energy efficiency and progress towards net zero carbon by tackling the 'low-hanging' fruit. It is part of a series of [net zero carbon funding streams](#) made available by the national church. The Quick Wins Fund opens for this triennium on 9th March 2026.

Eligible Churches (and associated halls)...

1. Will be owned by part of the CofE (i.e. not be leased or rented accommodation owned by others)
2. Will have completed, or will complete as part of grant condition, the [Energy Footprint Tool](#) for the most recent year (e.g. 2025 data if applying in 2026)
3. will have registered for the A Rocha UK's [Eco Church](#) scheme and, be progressing towards the bronze award
4. will have completed an energy audit¹, received other professional advice, or can demonstrate how the proposed measure was arrived at
5. will not be in receipt of another CofE Net Zero grant, with the exception of:
 - a Quick Wins Fund grant from the last triennium for a different or earlier stage of a project
 - the national funded energy audit and associated £3k Decarbonisation Grant from the last triennium
 - the diocesan Net Zero Carbon Preparation Fund
 - the Minor Repairs and Improvements (MR&I) Fund grant.

The Quick Wins Fund is likely to be oversubscribed each year so do apply as soon as you are ready to proceed with your quick win. You will need to claim your fund (with proof of an invoice) within one year of a successful application, and should you be eligible, but the round is oversubscribed, we will roll your application over to the next round.

Grant amount

The average grant award is £3,000. In exceptional circumstances this may be increased. There will be three rounds each year between now and 2028.

For 2026:

Round 4 closes on 17 April 2026 at 5pm. Successful applications will be notified by 15 May 2026.

Round 5 closes on 26 June 2026 at 5pm. Successful applications will be notified by 24 July 2026.

Round 6 closes on 2 Oct 2026 at 5pm. Successful applications will be notified by 2 Nov 2026.

For all proposals, please notify the Church Buildings Team prior to submitting your application with details of the work you wish to carry out, so that they can provide advice and explain whether any permissions are needed.

Work will need to be carried out, paid for, and claimed within twelve months of the offer date. The Diocese reserves the right to cancel grants towards projects not implemented within a reasonable timescale.

¹ The Diocese of Oxford offers a subsidised [Energy Audit programme](#).

Eligible Net Zero Carbon Solutions

Retrospective funding is ineligible – any project already underway or committed will not be funded.

Relevant statutory permissions, for example Faculty (or list A or B permission as appropriate) and/or any other statutory permission must be obtained and a grant offer does not confer such permission or remove the need for consultation.

If interiors are of historic, architectural, conservation and/or artistic interest, professional & DAC advice must be sought before grant funded works are undertaken.

Advice must be sought in connection with any project that could disturb bats. (See [Bat Conservation Trust advice service](#))

Insulation and draft proofing

Generally, works that help reduce energy consumption and/or enable areas to be maintained at comfortable temperatures are eligible. Such works include:

- Insulating loft roofs and loft spaces where there is an uninsulated, easy-to access void.
- Insulating around heating pipes.
- Draught-proofing doors and windows, including putting up a door-curtain.
- Installing a secondary door / porch to reduce heat loss at an entrance to a church.
- Laying rugs/floor-coverings (appropriately breathable) or fabric wall-hangings or panels (with an air gap behind) if these are designed primarily to improve insulation to improve comfort and/or reduce carbon emissions.

Lighting

Work that significantly reduces gross carbon emissions (as measured by the Energy Footprint Tool) associated with lighting will be eligible, in particular:

- Replacing lights with LEDs. This can include replacing light fittings if they are not LED compatible.
- Installing thermal and/or motion sensors on lighting.

Heating controls (including zoning)

Work that enables better monitoring and control of heating, including:

- Creating one or more smaller (separately heatable) spaces for smaller events.
- Matching heating settings better to usage.
- Installing a HIVE- or NEST-type heating controller, to better control heating.
- Improving heating zones and controls.
- Installing TRVs on radiators in meeting rooms & offices.
- Installing energy-saving devices such as Savawatt on fridges or other appliances.
- Installing a smart meter, to better measure energy use.

Efforts to reduce or eliminate use of oil or gas for heating

This can include supporting towards the costs of installation of electric powered appliances such as:

- Under-pew electric heaters.
 - Infra-red radiant panels and/or halo heaters.
 - Heat pumps.
 - Heated chair cushions.
- ... which either replace or significantly reduce the use of oil and gas-fired space heating.

Further eligible works could include replacing gas cookers with electric, and installing 'point of use' electric water heaters for sinks which avoid the need to heat tap water with gas/oil.

De-stratification fans will not generally be eligible unless there is clear evidence demonstrating that in the specific building, they will significantly reduce energy consumption / reduce carbon emissions as part of a wider plan to move towards net zero.

Electrical upgrades

Work that enables a move towards direct electric heating approaches such as upgrades to the electrical system and/or supply serving the property, to enable a church or church hall to move away from oil or gas heating, or to substantially reduce their use of existing oil or gas heating

Temporary heating solutions

Works that enable a church or church hall to avoid undertaking a like-for-like oil or gas-heating replacement, when all the following specific circumstances occur:

- The fossil fuel heating system has failed.
- It is an emergency situation.
- No other temporary heating solution is available

Eligible costs under the Quick Wins Fund:

- Boiler hire.
- Electric heater hire or purchase.
- Heated chair cushions.

It is expected these temporary solutions will last for no more than one year, whilst the church makes plans, seeks advice, applies for faculty, and fundraises for a permanent low carbon alternative.

In these circumstances, temporary heating appliances should ideally be owned by the diocese so that, at the end of the temporary period, once the church has installed their permanent heating solution, the diocese can then make the appliances available to other parishes.

Work that helps address ingress of damp

Repairs to roofs and rainwater goods (e.g. gutters, downpipes) can be considered eligible if:

- They do not constitute work that would normally be considered as routine maintenance.
- Align with the spirit of the Church of England to move towards net zero and genuinely fit within part of a wider PCC plan of works to reduce carbon emission in their buildings.

Solar PV systems

Quick Wins support towards Solar PV systems will be eligible only when PV systems are part of a wider PCC plan which prioritises actions to decarbonise their buildings. A genuine commitment to decarbonise (with some other measures to transition to net zero carbon already completed) must be clearly evident before Quick Wins support for a PV system is considered.

VAT

It will be assumed that whenever reasonably possible, PCCs will take advantage of schemes for reclaiming VAT, or take advantage of schemes that allow reduced rates of VAT. Accordingly, the Quick Wins Fund will only contribute to VAT costs when such costs could not have reasonably been

reclaimed or reduced through other scheme(s). Likewise, the Fund will not grant aid a higher rate of VAT when a reduced rate could be applied for certain products and/or through other schemes.

Ineligible works

Non-capital works are generally ineligible unless they are a legal requirement of an eligible capital project (e.g. certification of electrical works).

Eligibility Conditions

The applicant body must have legal responsibility for the church or church hall building. This will typically be the PCC but may in some cases be some other properly constituted body.

Where the demand outstrips the fund budget, application prioritising will be by considering the carbon reduction impact of the interventions to be funded.

Work costing more than £1,000 will need to be subject to some form of competitive procurement on a best value basis, unless there are good reasons for why this is not possible or appropriate in the circumstances.

Grants are a restricted fund item for the purposes of PCC accounting and must be spent on the agreed work. The Diocese reserves the right to reclaim the grant if the work undertaken is not the work for which the grant was approved and/or any work or activity is removed from the project.

Should the cost of the agreed work prove higher than estimated or quoted, the Diocese is under no obligation to increase the grant. The Diocese also reserves the right to reduce the grant proportionally if the cost of the work proves less than the amount on which grant was based.

Grant recipients should retain relevant documentation relating to the grant and the work carried out for at least seven years after the work is completed. Documentation, including photographs, should be made available to the diocese on request.

The Diocese reserves the right to publicise the grant and the project and to use relevant information in case studies, monitoring reports etc as it sees fit.

Normally, payments will be made on completion of the work. In the event that this will cause cashflow difficulties for a PCC, a part payment may be made in advance. For example, 50% might be released once the PCC has signed a contract or otherwise agreed terms for the work with a contractor.