

DAC GUIDELINES: CRITERIA FOR THE INSTALLATION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC CELLS

The introduction of these criteria is intended to do two things:

- 1) **Give parishes clear guidance on what is viable** (prevent resources being wasted on formulating proposals that could never be approved).
- 2) **Give a clear pathway/framework of conditions that the DAC can require parishes to follow** (ensuring that proposals are part of a well considered green package, and that learning from parishes who have installed PV cells is passed back to the DAC).

Criteria

The site

- 1) **The proposed installation site should not be visible from the ground.** Presuming the installations will in the main be on church roofs, this means that the roof will have to be a) of low pitch behind a parapet, or b) a valley (for example between a nave and aisle roof)
- 2) **The roof structure should be assessed by a suitably qualified professional to ensure that it can carry the additional weight of the equipment**
- 3) **Discreet and secure space should be identified for the inverter equipment**
- 4) **All wiring is subject to normal DAC wiring conditions**
- 5) **The fixing of the panels must be reversible, and must not compromise the roof covering** (for example by piercing or restricting thermal movement)

The panels

- 1) **Should have a minimum 25 year performance guarantee**
- 2) **Should be inspected annually** by a suitably qualified engineer, together with the wiring and inverter equipment.

Preparation

- 1) **Parishes should provide the DAC with statements of need and significance.** The desire to get the Feed-In Tariff alone does not constitute a need.
- 2) Parishes should prove to the DAC that the **proposed installation is part of a wider package of measures** they have already taken or are taking towards better environmental stewardship. Ideally parishes should be following the eco-congregation or Shrinking the Footprint path.
- 3) **There should be a current and competent energy audit of the building**
- 4) **Contractors should provide a feasibility document** identifying the expected efficiency of the installation (%), annual energy production, monetary and carbon payback periods.
- 5) **The comment of the inspecting architect is essential**, and wherever possible he/she should be closely involved in the proposals

Consultation

- 1) **Parishes should consult with (dependent on grade etc): EH, SPAB, VicSoc, local planning authority**
- 2) **A letter of consent from the insurers is essential**

Post-installation

- 1) After the first twelve months an **evaluation report is to be produced detailing the levels of energy produced across the year, FiT earnings, and remaining energy bills.**
- 2) **Monitoring should continue throughout the lifetime of the installation, and a summary of that monitoring be provided to the inspecting architect for inclusion in QI reports**