

7. What will the process be for applying for grants to implement recommendations?

When you receive your audit report, you will also receive a very simple grant application form, which you can use to apply for up to £150 to fund implementation of the audit's recommendations. This form will be sent to TOE and evaluated by the partners in the programme. Please apply before you undertake work, as the fund will not be available for work undertaken before approval has been granted. Payment will be on production of receipts for the work/materials involved. We aim to make this process as simple as possible - the aim is to support churches in taking the first steps along the road.

If you are looking to implement recommendations that would have higher costs, TOE will be able to provide advice on grant funding. There will also be advice on funding contained in the audit report.

Further Information

For further information about the programme, please visit www.oxford.anglican.org/mission-ministry/church-energy-audits/ or contact Maranda St John Nicolle by telephone 01235 851763 or 07493 377580 or by email at maranda@ccow.org.uk.

Church Energy Efficiency Audits



As Christians, we are called to live in a way that respects and cares for God's creation. One way of doing this is to use resources such as energy efficiently, so that we're not wasting God's gifts.

Energy efficiency can enable our churches to provide attractive places of sanctuary, fellowship and communion - with a comfortable level of warmth and illumination - at a lower cost to the planet, and sometimes with financial savings as well.

One of the significant barriers for churches, however, is knowing what positive actions they can undertake. So that PCCs can obtain and begin to act on expert advice in this area, the Diocese of Oxford, in conjunction with its programme partners, Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) and Inspired Efficiency, is piloting a scheme whereby churches can apply to receive discounted energy audits and small grants towards implementing practical recommendations highlighted by the audits.

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Oxfordshire's
Environment

Inspired
Efficiency

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OXFORD

Questions about the Pilot Audit Scheme

1. How do we apply?

You can download the application form from the diocesan website at www.oxford.anglican.org/mission-ministry/church-energy-audits/ or speak with your archdeacon to receive an application form.

2. How much will this cost us?

For this 2019 pilot programme, the Diocese has secured the services of Inspired Efficiency, who are offering a heavily discounted cost of £300 +VAT for audits for most churches (increasing to £600 +VAT for large and/or complex church structures). The diocese provides a grant of £150 and covers VAT; therefore the costs for most PCCs will be £150. Following the audit, you will also be eligible to apply for a grant of up to £150 to implement the audit's recommendations.

3. What does the audit process involve?

It's surprisingly easy. Firstly, just fill out the application form, giving some background information on the church (the more information provided, the more specific to your needs - and the more useful - the energy audit is likely to be). Contact will then be made with the contact person to arrange a suitable time and date for the audit.

Before the surveyor arrives, you're asked to gather 12 months' worth of energy bills (electricity, gas, etc.) which the surveyors will use (a) to make sure you're not being overcharged and (b) to get a picture of your energy usage.

On the audit day, the energy surveyor will visit the church for about 2 hours. During this time, someone (preferably with good knowledge of the church) will need to show the energy surveyor around the church and ensure he has access to all areas including boiler rooms, towers and the like.

If all the necessary information has been submitted by the time of the visit, your parish will receive a written energy audit report that will detail the recommendations, including likely costs and savings, within 28 days.

4. Will we be able to choose the date and time of the audit?

In order to gain the discounted audit costs and to ensure that the delivery of the audits is efficient both in terms of times and environmental impact, we need to cluster churches together so that three churches can be visited by the auditor on the same day. Some coordination will be required between churches to achieve this. If one potential date or time doesn't work for you, we'll seek to find another.

5. We are a highly listed church; will the audit take that into account?

Yes, the auditors are highly experienced in providing energy advice to churches and historic buildings and have worked with many other dioceses as well as organisations such as National Trust and Historic England. They have full knowledge of the Faculty process and are members and advisors to DACs. All reports will be presented alongside information on the permissions that are likely to be required and will recommend appropriate solutions for listed buildings.

6. So many firms are bombarding us with offers relating to our oil/gas/electricity. Will this lead to more such approaches?

No! Inspired Efficiency is simply performing an audit. They will not be trying to sell you any new energy deals (or indeed anything else!). The surveyors will look at your energy bills and be able to provide clear independent advice if they think you can save money, in the past this has included advice on VAT reduction or correcting metering errors by the suppliers.