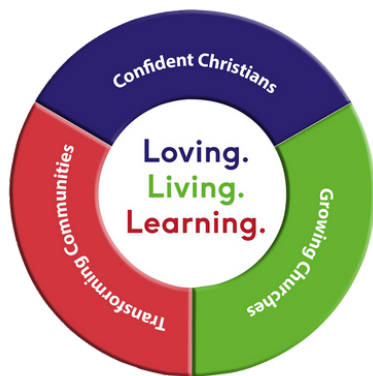


# SAVING CREATION: NET ZERO CARBON BY 2030

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Saving Creation  
Diocese of Leeds



# OUR DIOCESAN NET ZERO CARBON AMBITION

The Diocese of Leeds is striving to be net zero carbon by 2030. Our vision for 2030 for our clergy properties, schools and churches to be warm, bright and welcoming buildings that are well maintained, powered by renewable energy and more energy efficient, with lower energy costs.

Investing in the future of our buildings will enable them to be sustainable signs of the kingdom, better serving the needs of the worshipping congregation and community and acting as beacons of excellence in the transition away from fossil fuels.

The Diocese of Leeds continues to be at the forefront of eco mission nationally. We are acting in response and support of the General Synod's call in February 2020, to be net zero carbon by 2030.

The key principles which underpin our ambition to be net zero across the diocese estate are that it is:

- Rooted in a strong theological foundation
- Urgent, relevant and widely understood
- Data driven and focused
- Embedded in all we do

Our diocesan rapid decarbonisation work is not our only response to climate change, nor the only way we express our mission to care for all creation. We continue to promote and engage with the Eco Church Award scheme, a tool to assist creation care being threaded through the life of a church. Our net zero programme provides opportunities for all Christians, including our Bishops and senior clergy, to advocate with credibility about this work in the public square.



# OUR VISION AND RESPONSE

## Confident Christians

Climate change and its impacts on people is one of the biggest issues confronting our world today. People of all ages, backgrounds and experience are finding that taking action on climate change is at the very heart of what it means to be a Christian for them. The Anglican five marks of mission have always seen the protection of creation and challenges to injustice as part of the mission of the church.

## Growing Churches

The church is called to share a narrative of hope and action, something especially relevant in light of the climate emergency. Proclaiming the gospel afresh involves holding out hope in Jesus Christ, creator, sustainer and redeemer of all things, along with a resolute commitment to action on climate change.

## Transforming Communities

The diocese's ambition to become net zero carbon is a symbol, and by itself will not prevent global climate change. However, it stands in a long and biblical tradition of prophetic action, drawing attention to all that runs counter to God's will and the common good. The kingdom of God is characterised by justice, peace and ecological wholeness. The vocation of the church is to be sign, a sacrament, and a foretaste of Christ's kingdom - a kingdom that brings the renewal of the whole of creation.

Our net zero carbon work is a significant and costly act of sacrificial love, which tells the next generation and the world's most vulnerable that they are heard and we are alongside them. We are called to stand in solidarity with our global sisters and brothers across the Anglican Communion. We know the injustice of climate change, which is impacting most deeply on the poorest in society, both locally and globally, and future generations, who have historically done the least to cause it. The ecological crisis is also a humanitarian crisis, and addressing it is as much about how we love one another as how we care for God's creation.



# WHAT IS PART OF OUR NET ZERO WORK?

The diocese has a wide range of buildings covered by our decarbonisation programme, including:

- 451 clergy properties where we have direct control, being responsible for the carbon emissions related to construction, but not for the occupiers' energy use.
- 49 Voluntary Aided schools, where the Church or Foundation governors are an absolute majority. We also look to support all Foundation, Voluntary Controlled and Multi-Academy Trust schools, recognising their place in our mission.
- 587 churches, some with church halls, where the diocese has an important role in engaging, supporting and equipping our Parochial Church Councils to care for creation, while recognising that each acts as an autonomous organisation.
- Three diocesan offices.

Our three Cathedrals are following a parallel path to net zero carbon, but report directly to the Church Commissioners.

Our diocesan land management plans also align with our environmental policies.

The Church of England has currently set Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions for the ambition to be net zero by 2030.

- Scope 1 emission are generated from fossil fuels being burned directly:
  - As gas, oil or LPG heating fuel in a Voluntary Aided or Multi-Academy Trust school, church or diocesan offices
  - As petrol or diesel for travel for staff and ministerial miles
- Scope 2 emission are generated where fossil fuels are burned to generate electricity. Electricity used that has been generated from renewable sources (e.g. solar, wind, hydro), either onsite or via a renewable electric tariff, can be discounted from any building's carbon footprint.

45 churches in the diocese are already net zero carbon, or have a carbon footprint of less than one tonne.



# OUR NET ZERO PLAN

We see caring for creation as integral to the whole ministry and mission of our churches and church schools. Having a net zero action and climate resilience plan is part of the longer term strategic planning for the diocese. This allows us to be relevant and inspirational, and also gives the buildings our communities use a firm footing for many years to come. Continued engagement and communication with a wide range of stakeholders is essential. We acknowledge that not all PCCs, schools or clergy property occupants will be in a position to move at the same speed, and careful support and guidance will be needed as we journey together.

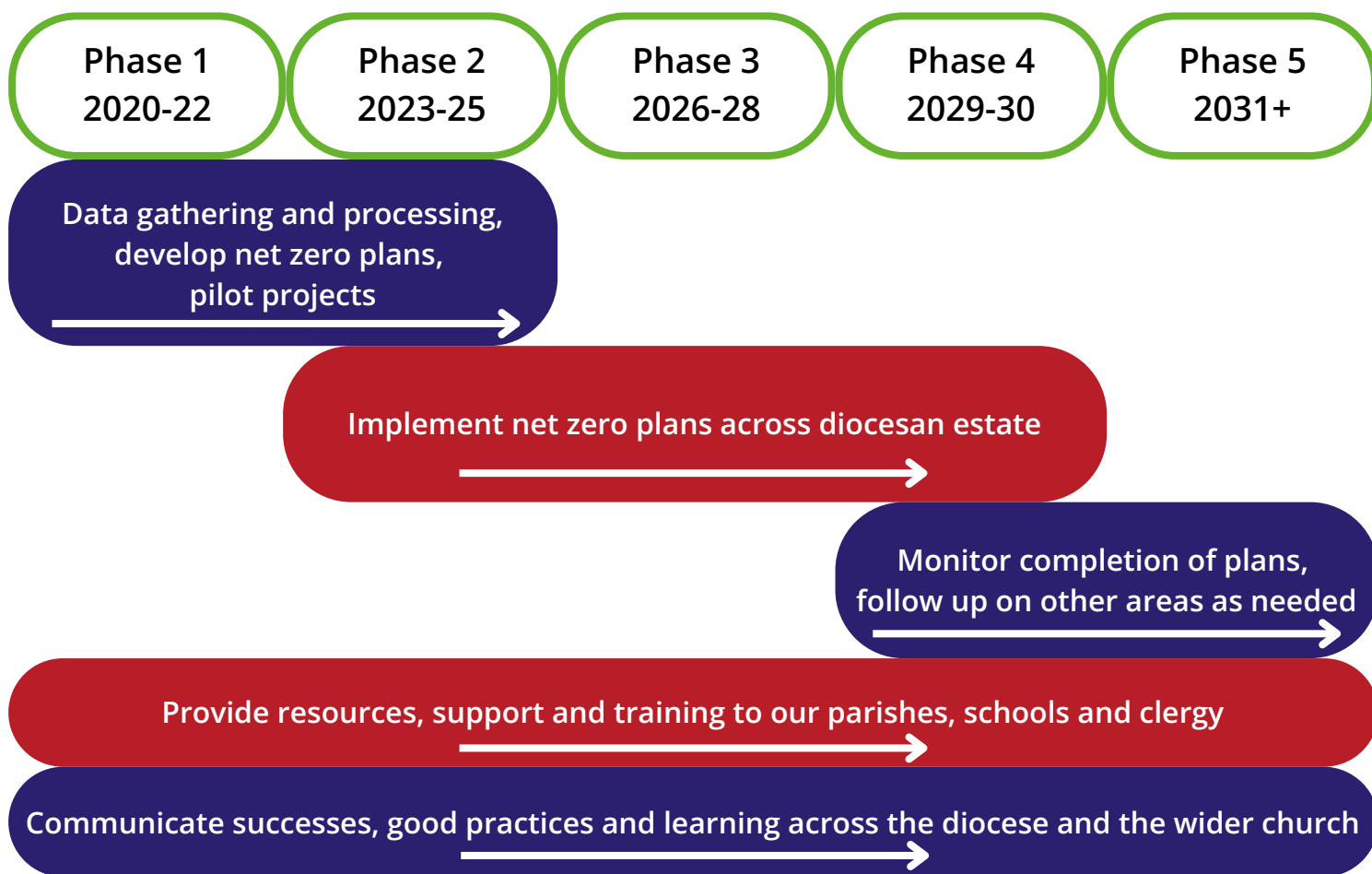
While there is a long tradition of scripturally-based Christian relationship with creation, decarbonisation brings new challenges where the body of Christ does not have prior expertise. As we learn together, training and upskilling will be vital to help meet our ambition of net zero. Several training strands are already underway for clergy, lay people and diocesan staff, including us developing a ground breaking Eco Mission Enabler Ministry Pathway on behalf of the national church. Adaptability will be required through the phases of this programme to meet the needs of learners at different stages. We want to create confident Christians who can help to transform communities for the climate emergency context.

This work will be firmly embedded in our work and mission, as part of our broader Barnabas: Encouraging Confidence programme. Various specific roles have been created to support parts of this work, including a Property Development Officer, a School Buildings Support Officer, a Net Zero Churches Technical Consultant and a Net Zero Funding Officer.

Funding our net zero ambition will be challenging. We value the partners we are already working within and will be open to working with other organisations.



# OUR NET ZERO PLAN



The early phases of our net zero plan involved improving our understanding of our scope 1 and 2 emissions, upskilling and increasing capacity, and piloting projects and funding streams in preparation for later rapid implementation phases.

Data collection has included undertaking stock condition surveys for all clergy properties and annual energy and travel data collection for schools, churches, cathedrals and diocesan offices through the Online Parish Return Energy Footprinting Tool. These continue to improve our understanding of carbon emission from our 2019 baseline. Energy audits have been completed for most of our VA schools, and the highest emitting 40 churches. The Diocesan land portfolio has also been assessed for natural climate solutions and renewable energy generation potential.

This data has helped to inform the action plans developed for each sector of the diocesan estate and ensure a focus on where resources can be best deployed to achieve the most effective carbon reductions. The schools' audits will help to develop a schools-tailored action plan and identify quick wins, as well as mid- and long- term actions to move towards net zero carbon.

Various specific roles have been created to support parts of this work, including a Property Development Officer, a School Buildings Support Officer, a Net Zero Funding Officer and consultancy expertise brought in to help with technical church building decarbonisation issues and the challenge to raise funds for implementation.

# OUR NET ZERO PLAN

The permissions policy and guidance for churches on all matters pertaining to carbon emissions such as lighting, heating and energy generation are now aligned to the net zero ambition.

A number of pilot projects have been undertaken to improve our knowledge and understanding as well as identify future benefits and barriers that will need to be overcome. The property department have undertaken one whole house retrofit and have another in progress. In collaboration with energy supply and solutions provider E.ON a tailored programme of improvements for the 67 properties has already been delivered, with 34 gaining solar panels and battery storage, 24 being fitted with new loft insulation and 34 receiving new cavity wall insulation.

Many churches have already made their own net zero action plans and there are a growing number who have installed electric heating solutions such as under pew heating, heated pew cushions, infra-red panels or air source heat pumps.

The diocese have also successfully piloted a match funding scheme for the national church, Give To Go Green. This supported a wide of carbon reduction projects in Round 1, including guttering repair, underpew heating, LED lighting and zoned heating. £57,000 was raised and match funded by 11 different churches.

Three of our churches will join others around the country being funded as “demonstrator projects”, becoming local exemplars for the net zero journey.

Part of the early phase of this work has been to start to upskill and build capacity across our staff, schools and parishes. Our leading approach of providing Carbon Literacy training for staff and developing the pioneering Eco Mission Enabler Ministry Pathway courses is helping equip us for the this new area of our mission.

If you would more details on any of our specific plans do please get in touch using the contacts on the next page.





We hope this guide is useful. Resources and support can be found on the [Caring for God's Creation section of diocesan website](#).

If you need further support, please contact one of the below by clicking on their link:

- Support and advice - [Your Area Environment Champion](#)
- Specialist advice is available from our [Eco Mission Enablers](#), who each have their own specialism
- Church and churchyard queries - [the Church Buildings Team](#)
- Schools - [Beth Maclean, School Buildings Support Officer](#)
- Clergy Property and Diocesan Land - [Ben Burton, Property Development Manager](#)
- Funding queries - [Fran Taylor, Net Zero Carbon Funding Officer](#)
- Eco Training - [Helen Collings, Lay Training Director and Eco Training Lead](#)
- Stories or events to share - [Jack Bacon, Communications Officer](#)