



Diocese of Blackburn

Carbon Net Zero Action Plan

V1.0 (for Diocesan Synod)

19th September 2023

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Contents

Executive Summary	3
Personal introduction from +Philip	4
1 Introduction.....	5
2 Planning principles.....	7
3 The main sources of our carbon emissions	8
4 Route map milestones for dioceses	10
5 Specific actions for diocesan structures	12
6 Specific actions for churches	16
7 Specific actions for offices (Clayton House)	19
8 Specific actions for clergy/Diocesan Board of Finance housing	20
9 Specific actions for schools.....	22
10 Specific actions for work-related travel.....	23
11 Specific actions for land	24
12 Residual emissions.....	25
13 Risks/Challenges and solutions.....	25
14 What resources will be needed?	26
15 What will it cost and how will you fund it?	27
16 What is the timeline for action – Q4 2023 and 2024?.....	29
17 Communication Strategy	29
18 Monitoring, reporting and plan review	29
Appendix 1 Highest 20% emitters – churches based upon 2022 EFT (net/CO2).....	30
Appendix 2 – Environmental Policy (revised September 2023)	32
Appendix 3 – DAC Environmental Policy (September 2023).....	42
Appendix 4 – Diocese of Blackburn Travel Plan (September 2023)	45

Executive Summary

This Net Carbon Zero action plan sets out the Diocese of Blackburn's response to the climate emergency and the Church of England's challenge to be net carbon zero by 2030.

The document articulates the plans to address net carbon zero for each of the key diocesan sectors (churches and cathedral, church schools, clergy and DBF housing, glebe land and diocesan offices) that overall contributed to the total assumed diocesan net carbon emissions total of c. 12,396 tonnes/CO₂ in 2022 (this is the equivalent to the emissions of 4,330 small cars traveling 10,000 miles/year).

The national Church of England is fully supportive of each diocese creating their own road map of planned actions between 2022 and 2030 and have set aside over £180m in funding that will be released to dioceses to reduce carbon emissions in all of the sectors over time, but only in places where the actual energy footprint has been provided.

The key interventions planned in this plan over the next 2-3 years are:

- Producing energy decarbonisation plans for 35 of the highest emitting churches, the cathedral, Whalley Abbey and Clayton House by mid-2025
- Identifying and journeying with buildings selected for carbon reduction demonstrator projects by end 2025
- Collaborating with and supporting DBE Services in identifying and implementing carbon reduction demonstrator projects in Voluntary Aided/Voluntary Controlled and Cidari Multi-Academy Trust schools

Whilst the focus of this action plan is on interventions that can be taken to reduce emissions from church-linked assets, the far greater impact on global carbon emissions would be for each member of our worshipping and school communities to make carbon-conscious choices about how they heat their homes and the frequency and mode of travel.

Personal introduction from +Philip

I am committed to encouraging individuals, churches, schools, office holders, volunteers and employees to engage with the Church of England's carbon net zero by 2030 target recognising that we all have a part to play in caring for God's creation.

One of our biggest challenges is winning the hearts and minds of many in our congregations to see climate change as an urgent priority, if not an absolute emergency. Whilst many who live away from the coastal towns may not directly feel the effect of rising sea levels over the coming years, we can see the impact of climate change both on our shores and globally from the frequent news stories on our screens and newspapers.

I am personally committed to the net zero agenda and have just taken delivery of my first electric car. We also hope to move from a Bronze award to Silver at Bishop's House through the A Rocha Eco Church scheme. This scheme is a good yard stick to mark our progress and I hope to see many more churches and offices pick up awards across the diocese this year.

This document outlines the steps that we plan to take over the next few years, supported in part by national Church funding, to cost-effectively reduce the carbon emitted as a result of church and school-based activities, that will also enable reductions in energy costs. I commend it to you and hope you will be able to support this essential work.

+Philip

Bishop of Blackburn

1 Introduction

General Synod voted in February 2020 for the whole of the Church of England to achieve net zero carbon by 2030. The vote recognised that the global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation and a fundamental injustice.

The Church of England defines Net Zero Carbon as the reduction as far as possible of all in-scope carbon emissions (from the oil, gas and electricity we use in our buildings and petrol and diesel in transport) and the removal of an equivalent amount of carbon from the atmosphere for the remaining in-scope emissions by use of accredited offsetting schemes.



Fig 1 – in and out of scope activities

General Synod asked for a plan to be made, setting out how to get to net zero carbon. That plan of action, called the Routemap, was approved by General Synod in July 2022 in a Motion that asked for the Routemap to be endorsed, requested every Diocesan Synod to debate the Routemap as it applies to them, requested high energy users within the Church to draw up a programme of action based on the Routemap, and called for progress reports to Synod every three years.

Blackburn Diocesan Synod followed General Synod's lead and passed the following motion at its meeting on 18th October 2022 requesting a buildings decarbonisation plan to be in place by July 2023;

This Synod [therefore] commits the Diocesan Board of Finance and the senior leadership team to strengthen the Net-Carbon Zero Task force, using senior representatives and experts:

(i) to work with every church, and the Diocese's own property portfolio, to assist in developing decarbonisation plans for its buildings, with a plan for this to be in place by July 2023;

(ii) to establish a range of projects focused on specific targets and technologies, eg solar panels, heat source pumps, insulation, boiler replacement, etc; and

(iii) to assist in delivering a strategy for the resourcing of such projects; with the commitment that all church buildings and Diocesan property in Blackburn Diocese have a clear roadmap in place to achieve net-zero carbon by 2030, in line with the Church of England Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030, as adopted by the General Synod in July 2022."

This action plan sets out the Diocesan Board of Finance and Education's response to the motion using a template provided by the National Church of England's Carbon Net Zero team. A Net Carbon Zero Steering Group was established to oversee the development of the plan. Members of the group are:

- Canon Stephen Whittaker Diocesan Secretary and Director of Education (Chair)
- Rev Canon Professor John Rodwell Diocesan Environmental Officer
- Rev Carol Backhouse Vicar, Lancaster Christ Church
- Rev Sam Cheesman Bishop's Chaplain
- Ms Joy Rushton Being Witnesses' Manager
- Mrs Jen Read Senior Church Buildings Officer
- Mr Dave Champness Project Manager and Churchwarden at Leyland, St Johns

With specialist advice from:

- Mr Sam Johnson CEO of DBE Services and LLM at Clitheroe, St James
- Mr Michael Kellett Diocesan Surveyor

2 Planning principles

In developing this action plan the NCZ Steering Group used the following planning principles:

- Based in theology: treasuring God's creation.
- Urgent, relevant and widely understood.
- Data-driven, focused and transparent.
- Embedded in all we do.
- Using less energy, and from cleaner sources.
- Travelling sustainably.
- Offsetting only what we cannot reduce

Prioritise investment based on cost-benefit

Introduction	Vision and Scope	The Routemap	Net zero carbon planning principles	The kind of change that is needed	How we will make the changes	Complex areas	Reporting	Challenges to achieving Net Zero Carbon	Appendix
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Net Zero Carbon planning principles:

1. Based in theology: Treasuring God's creation

- We recognise that the global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation, and unjust to the poor and future generations. It is the context into which we are called to live and preach the Gospel.
- We will link all our actions on net zero carbon to our Christian mission, as expressed in the Five Marks of Mission.
- We will grow the Church while reducing our environmental footprint; Christ's Gospel message will reach and engage new people, particularly the young.

2. Urgent, relevant and widely understood

- Net zero is needed by 2030 but it starts now. We aren't waiting; a significant reduction is needed every year, year-on-year.
- We will communicate clearly the reasons for action, and for acting now recognising the existential threat that we all face.
- We embrace the call to net zero carbon as an integral part of our mission; caring for creation, achieving climate justice, ending poverty, creating a viable future for ourselves and coming generations, and increasing engagement with our communities.
- We will implement only tried and tested technology.

3. Data-driven, focused and transparent

- We recognise this work covers all of our activities as a Church, as set out in the scope agreed by Synod.
- We will gather good data on major sources of emissions, to inform our decisions e.g. energy consumption, EPC surveys and travel data.
- We will be strategic, using our data to focus effort on the large, busy buildings such as secondary schools and our busiest churches. We know most small, rural churches already have a very small carbon footprint and the onus for action does not lie with them.
- We will learn from others, sharing resources and collaborating.
- We will estimate costs for the changes and actively seek funding.

4. Embedded in all we do

- We will aim to integrate ethical environmental principles into everything we are doing as the CoE.
- We will encourage every level and part of the Church to take a formal decision to answer the call from General Synod e.g. a motion by the PCC, school governors, cathedral chapter, diocesan synod. Leaders at all levels will need to prioritise action.
- We will identify those things directly in our control, and the things we influence, and discern appropriate strategies for both (including co- wildlife, social value, health, com[No Title])
- We will encourage each part of the Church to gather a team to work on this, including a champion in a leadership position.
- We will include carbon footprints into our reporting systems, both nationally and locally, e.g. APCM reports.
- We will also include climate adaptation/ resilience to protect our buildings and communities in increasingly extreme weather.

Introduction	Vision and Scope	The Routemap	Net zero carbon planning principles	The kind of change that is needed	How we will make the changes	Complex areas	Reporting	Challenges to achieving Net Zero Carbon	Appendix
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5. Using less energy, and from cleaner sources

- We will aim for quick wins, whilst planning ahead for the harder actions such as moving away from oil and gas.
- We will first reduce demand for energy by maintaining our buildings well (tackling damp, fixing broken windows etc) and by reducing heat loss as appropriate. Then we will increase energy efficiency through steps such as LED lighting, zoning and controls.
- We will ensure energy is supplied from cleaner sources: switching to 'green' tariffs and increasing renewables on our buildings.
- We recognise the vital importance of decarbonising heat since any new oil/gas boiler installed now will outlast 2030. We acknowledge the challenge and will strive to ensure options appraisals take place for all heating replacements of fossil oil and gas systems.
- We recognise that some decisions will need to wait until later in the decade, for more certainty on technologies, funding and regulation.
- We will aim to avoid maladaptation and to remember the embodied carbon in our building projects; we will avoid carrying out big interventions for small savings, while recognising the need to future-proof buildings to comply with potential future legislation.

6. Travelling sustainably

- We will avoid unnecessary travel.
- We will encourage sustainable transport and remember the travel hierarchy: walking, cycling, public transport, shared journeys, electric cars, fuel efficient cars, less efficient cars, ferries, flights.

7. Offsetting only what we cannot reduce

- We will reduce all the carbon emissions we can, offsetting should be a last resort.
- There will however be some role for offsetting and sequestration, towards 2030, and we will explore viable options whilst recognising most will not sequester carbon in the timescale of our target.
- Where excess renewable energy is generated on our sites (e.g. from solar PV) we can export to the national grid as a valid offset.
- We will protect and nurture the trees, soils and wild spaces we already have and the carbon they store. There are a range of nature-based climate interventions which are to be encouraged in appropriate places, but which will take time to come to maturity and do not offset the effect of the carbon we are producing now.

3 The main sources of our carbon emissions

Based on data obtained from the Energy Footprint Tool in 2021 and 2022, the assumed net carbon emissions are as follows:

	Number of buildings in-scope in 2022 (response rate %)	Carbon emissions 2022 (tCO ₂ e) (% contribution to total)	Carbon emissions 2021 (tCO ₂ e)	Carbon emissions 2020 (tCO ₂ e)
Church Buildings	261 (53%)	2,511 (20%)	2,994 (24%)	2,800 (23%)
Schools	176 (0%)	8,009 (65%)	8,009 (63%)	7,746 (64%)
Housing	232 (100%)	1,441 (12%)	1,437 (11%)	1,359 (11%)
Other buildings (cathedral + offices Clayton House, Whalley Abbey)	4 (100%)	387 (3%)	236 (2%)	150 (1%)
Work related travel	0%	48 (0%)	48 (0%)	95 (1%)
TOTAL		12,396 (100%)	12,724 (100%)	12,150 (100%)

* Assumed emissions data has been provided by the national church (based on building size bands/other assumptions) where no energy use data has been provided.

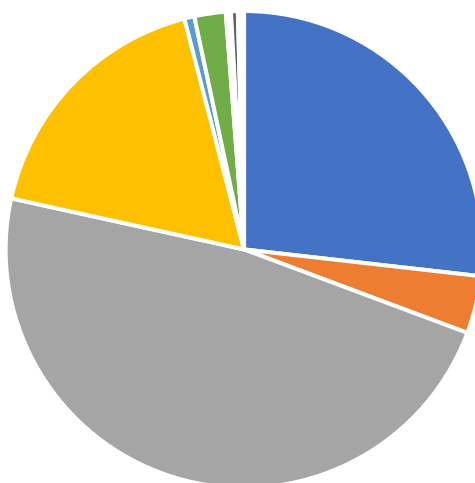
Some observations on the **2021** data (as 2022 national data has yet to be released):

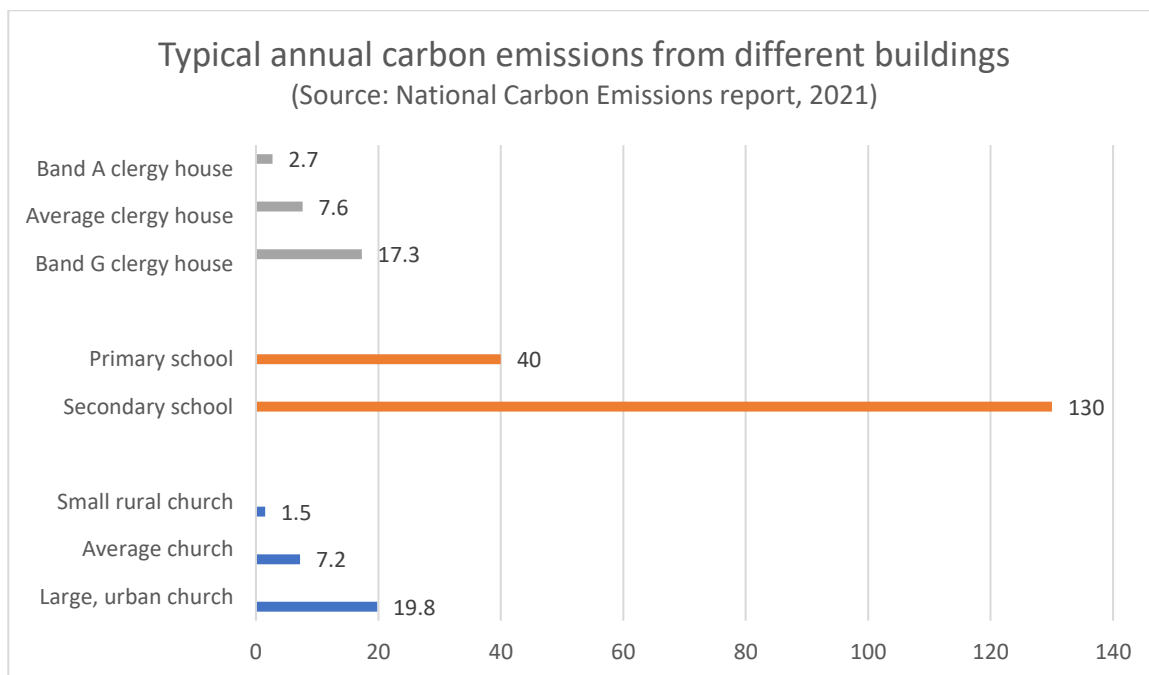
- Blackburn diocese had the 11th (out of 42 dioceses) highest emissions.
- Blackburn churches accounted for 2.7% of all church emissions in the country, but has 1.8% of the churches in the country, so on average Blackburn churches are higher emitters (reflecting the larger footprint of generally urban/sub-urban churches in the diocese).
- The highest 20% (55) of churches account for 42% of church carbon emissions in the diocese
- The amount of carbon emitted is the equivalent of a small car travelling 44.5million miles (equivalent of traveling to the moon and back nearly six times)

The percentage contribution of each building type to total emissions can be compared with the national averages below. It is noticeable that Blackburn has a higher percentage contribution from schools, as Blackburn has one of the highest number of church schools.

National Carbon Emissions (2021 Data):

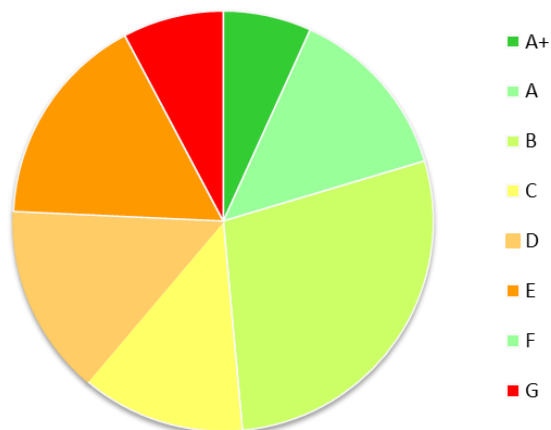
- Churches (27%)
- Church Halls (4%)
- Schools (48%)
- Housing (18%)
- NCIs (1%)
- Cathedrals (2%)
- TElS (<1%)
- Royal Peculiars (<1%)
- Diocesan Offices (<1%)
- Other diocesan property (<1%)



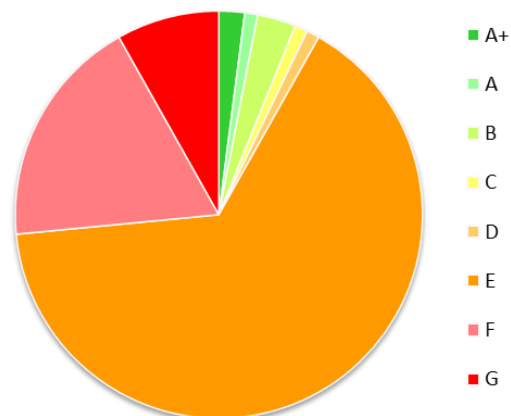


2021 church emissions data was also compared against floor space and occupancy hours norms, showing that c. 20% of Blackburn churches were A or A+ based on floor space and c. 5% based on occupancy hours.

Emissions category by sq m floor space



Emissions category by occupancy hours



4 Route map milestones for dioceses

The national church produced a high level milestone route map for dioceses. We are making good progress against the headline milestones as can be seen from the table below.

Milestone	Date	Blackburn Progress/response
4.1.1. Dioceses: All dioceses to convene a Net Zero Carbon working group, with senior representatives.	2022+	NCZ Steering Group established in February 2023. Monthly updates to Vision and Strategy meeting
4.1.2. Dioceses: All dioceses provide an annual carbon emissions report to Diocesan Synod using the results provided by the national Carbon Emissions report from Research and Statistics.	2022+	2021 Energy Footprint data shared at October 2022 Diocesan Synod. 2022 data to be shared at October 2023 Diocesan Synod
4.1.3. Dioceses: All dioceses develop a communication strategy to churches and schools - focus on the 'why', the theology, and make it positive.	2022+	Communication strategy focused on using Parish Update/webpage to target all parishes. Specific targeted communications for parishes with highest emitting churches
4.1.4. Dioceses: All dioceses provide an outline of their decarbonisation plans to Diocesan Synod as a Net Zero Carbon Action Plan, to include estimates of costs for different options, as well as the policy changes and levers for change required. To be reviewed annually by senior staff. The plan should make reference to the <i>Practical Path to Net Zero</i> and actively consider implementation of 'quick wins', how to decarbonise heat, how to reduce energy consumption and how to encourage behaviour change.	2023+	This document is being presented to October 2023 Diocesan Synod
4.1.5. Dioceses: All dioceses audit clergy property (where possible) by 2023 and develop a property retrofitting plan by 2024 (see Section 4.4).	2023 2024	2023 Review of DBF property quinquennial inspections identified c. £200k of remaining insulation and double-glazing works
4.1.6. Dioceses: All dioceses audit their landholdings and develop a land management plan.	2026	Blackburn has relatively small area of glebe land. Investment Committee undertook a glebe review in February 2023 and will reflect on the Glebe Guidance paper from National Church in autumn 2023

In addition the national church recommended that every diocese consider:

1. *Taking a two-pronged attack (i) finding some quick wins and pilots which show what is possible, while (ii) focussing strategically on the highest energy use buildings in the diocese, saving energy and decarbonising heat.*

The focus is on working with the 20% highest emitting churches (including the cathedral) plus Clayton House and Whalley Abbey. National Church have requested three churches from the diocese be put forward as demonstrator projects. The DAC, Senior Church Buildings Officer and relevant PCCs are deciding which buildings by mid-September 2023.

2. *Commissioning a desk-based Renewable Energy Feasibility Study for all buildings. With the results, consider opportunities for bulk procurement by implementing solutions on an intervention basis (e.g. installing PV panels or heat pumps) rather than a building basis.*

A template church decarbonisation plan has been produced by Mantis Energy who are part of a framework procured by DBE Services that produced De-carbonisation plans for all Blackburn Schools in 2021-22. Blackburn is leading a regional collaboration with Carlisle and Manchester for a 'Stage 2 national funding' application in October 2023 for 169 plans of which 35 are churches in Blackburn Diocese plus Whalley Abbey and Clayton House.

3. *Increasing capacity and understanding: potentially use the national 'train the trainer' scheme in Carbon Literacy to increase understanding across the diocese.*

Creation of a pilot 'Environmental Stewardship' elective module for Authorised Lay Ministers (ALM) based on material produced by Diocese of Leeds for spring term 2024 delivery.

4. *Identifying required policy changes/levers for change: Create a DAC policy, set expectations for APCM reports, quinquennial inspections and archdeacon's visitations.*

The DAC created an Environmental sub-group in June 2023 who have produced a policy (see appendix 3)

5. *Instigating discussions with local authorities about proposed low carbon heat networks over the coming decade and the potential for any buildings across the Church estate to be connected to them. Feed the results of these discussions into the Net Zero Carbon Action Plan and specific building heating replacement plans.*

This is not being pursued as there is no appetite from Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen nor Blackpool Unitary Authorities.

6. *Working with your HR department to ensure that your response to the climate crisis and the 2030 net zero carbon ambition is reflected in staff job descriptions, staff training (such as Carbon Literacy training), departmental plans and Key Performance Indicators.*

Net Zero carbon literacy training will be rolled out to staff by summer 2024 followed up by amendments to job descriptions through the ongoing cycle of reviews by end 2025. The DBF will include a section on carbon emissions in its annual report from 2024.

7. *Promoting Eco Church and use the criteria to inform your planning. (see Milestones 4.2.9, 4.5.5 and 4.6.1).*

There are six pages on the diocesan website covering environmental and net carbon zero matters. There are regular stories in Parish Update eg Appley Bridge. A 'learning community' will be established for the highest 20% emitting churches in 2024.

5 Specific actions for diocesan structures

Deadline	Topic	'Ask' / National Church Guidance	Blackburn response
No specific	Carbon emissions reporting	To governance groups (Vision and Strategy, DBF Directors and Diocesan Synod)	<i>There will be annual updates to the three governance groups in Q4 each year and in the DBF/DBE Annual Report</i>
No specific	Awareness	Increasing capacity and understanding: potentially use the national 'train the trainer' scheme in Carbon Literacy (<u>Organisation - The Carbon Literacy Project</u>) to increase understanding across the diocese.	<i>We will continue to include stories through Parish Update and the diocesan website to encourage engagement by parish leadership and congregation members</i>
No specific	DAC	Identifying required policy changes/levers for change: Create a DAC policy, set expectations for APCM reports, and archdeacon's visitations. Carry out a skills audit of your DAC and recruit new advisors where needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>We have established a DAC sub-committee with appropriately qualified advisors and have produced a DAC environmental policy.</i> <i>We have included eco question(s) in the next update to the archdeacons' parish visitation form</i> <i>We are actively recruiting for a DAC heating and sustainability adviser</i>
No specific	Fundraising	Allocating some time from the network of Giving Officers to focus on supporting parishes with environmental fundraising.	<i>Stephanie Rankin and Christy Sawyer have been briefed on sources of specific funding for environmental projects and will include in their support of parishes</i>
End 2022	EcoChurch (Arocha)	<p>Diocese register for Eco Church</p> <p>Plan to get to bronze (14 dioceses are at least bronze). Actions:</p> <p>A) <i>Update environmental policy and put online in an easily accessible place</i></p> <p>B) <i>10% of churches registered and 5% have at least bronze</i></p> <p>C) <i>Gain the relevant Eco Church Award level 'In relation to its Diocesan House or Office (where appropriate) and Land (where appropriate)'</i></p> <p>D) <i>Embed environmental issues 'Within the curricula of its ongoing ministerial education'</i></p> <p>E) <i>Manage Diocesan investments ethically 'In line with the ethical policies of the Church of England investing bodies including on climate change, guided by the recommendations of the Ethical Investment Advisory Group'</i></p> <p>F) <i>Work with other Dioceses and / or faith groups 'To encourage greater environmental action, including promoting Eco Church as a helpful tool'</i></p> <p>G) <i>Established the habit of recording and celebrating individual environmental initiatives</i></p>	<p>DBF registered in autumn 2022</p> <p>A) Updated Environmental Policy produced in August 2023 and on diocesan website</p> <p>B) 16% registered and 5% awarded at July 2023</p> <p>C) Clayton House and Bishop's House both awarded bronze in August 2023</p> <p>D) Environmental stewardship ALM elective planned in spring 2024. Plan for clergy study day in 2025</p> <p>E) DBF investments with CCLA divested from fossil fuels</p> <p>F) Blackburn leading the regional collaboration on decarbonisation plans with Carlisle and Manchester</p> <p>G) Stories beginning to be shared via</p>

			diocesan communications channels eg website and Parish Update
End 2023	Collect energy data	Every diocese has a 90%+ completion rate for the Energy Footprint Tool, and 100% of cathedrals complete the Energy Toolkit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 53% church collection rate at 31/8/23. Cathedral completed Floorspace and Energy Performance Certificate data for clergy housing provided for national model
End 2023	Carbon footprint reporting to APCM	Making carbon-footprint reporting, and completion of the Energy Footprint Tool, a required element of the APCM each year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2023 Archdeacon's charge included a 'nudge' to complete the EFT. In early 2024 the archdeacons will write to parishes recommending they include their energy footprint in their APCM report
End 2023	Review capacity	Individually, or in regional groups, all dioceses to review their capacity to respond to the Route map and identify gaps. The review should cover (i) the capacity to engage schools, archdeaconries, deaneries, and churches across the diocese, (ii) the project management skills needed to initiate and support local action, (iii) the technical input needed and (iv) the local fundraising capacity needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £15k secured to fund project management to the October 2023 diocesan synod submission 'business as usual' support from Steering Group members (especially volunteer Diocesan Environmental Officer) plus Ronnie Semley Additional resource may be required to support Jen Read (and DAC) and Michael Kellett (Property team) as more National Church funding becomes available Additional resource may be required to support delivery of ALM Elective – likely to be volunteers Agreement in principle to collaborate with Carlisle and Manchester with shared implementation project resources Proposal is to use DBE Services to co-ordinate the delivery of energy decarbonisation plans for highest emitting churches across the three dioceses from St2 funding
End 2025	Report on progress	Prepare a report on progress on the milestones detailing the successes and explaining the reasons for any delays to progress. To be submitted to the National Environment Team in Q1.	Not due
End 2025	Diocese silver eco church award	<p>Actions required:</p> <p>A. Commissioned a group (i.e. rather than an individual), such as an environmental advisory or working group, to coordinate progress within the Diocese</p> <p>B. Provided training and development opportunities</p>	<p>Not due</p> <p>A) Steering Group in place</p> <p>B) ALM Elective</p>

		<p><i>for a group of local / regional promoters such as Eco Champions</i></p> <p>C. <i>Written an Environmental Policy which includes land management with an explicit reference to promoting biodiversity and managing the land for carbon reduction across the Diocese.</i></p> <p>D. <i>The Diocesan Board of Education to have put in place an appropriate environmental policy</i></p> <p>E. <i>Agreed carbon reduction targets and developed an action plan to get there</i></p> <p>F. <i>Gained the appropriate levels of local church registrations and awards for Eco Church</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. <i>40% of local churches registered 30% of local churches awarded of which at least a third of these awards should be Silver or higher</i></p> <p>G. <i>Achieve the relevant award for Diocesan House / Office (where appropriate) and land (where appropriate) and promote an understanding amongst all staff of Eco Diocese goals</i></p> <p>H. <i>Environmental training should be included in standard Diocesan training for both lay and ordained ministry such that</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. <i>Environmental training is offered to all Diocesan Staff;</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b. <i>At least two high profile all clergy training events related to the environment have been undertaken in the last four years;</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">c. <i>external training events for Clergy and Lay Ministers / Readers are regularly directly organised or promoted on all aspects of Christianity and the environment;</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">d. <i>In-depth Christian environmental study (for example such as that provided by the CRES Course or similar certificate course) is regularly promoted;</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">e. <i>A connection to the natural world is actively encouraged through promoting networks and events held by external groups (for example A Rocha's Wild Christian community and local Wildlife Trusts, and CFgA); and</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">f. <i>Local church members engaged with promoting parish environmental work, are practically supported for example through Eco Champion networks</i></p> <p>I. <i>As a minimum, all Diocesan funds are invested in line with the Provincial ethical investment policy, i.e. in England to start divesting from companies not serious about moving to a low carbon economy (i.e. those not engaged in</i></p>	<p>C) TBC</p> <p>D) TBC</p> <p>E) Not started</p> <p>F) Will require significant change of 'hearts and minds' to reach these numbers</p> <p>G) Not started</p> <p>H) To be planned</p> <p>I) TBC</p>
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		<p><i>transitioning); and by 2023 to divest from fossil fuel companies not aligned with the Paris Agreement target</i></p> <p><i>J. Written an ethical banking and investment policy following established environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) criteria</i></p> <p><i>K. Work with partner church groups both locally and internationally to raise mutual awareness in regard to climate change and species loss mitigation and resilience measures</i></p> <p><i>L. Include a clear and substantial presence for environmental issues (including e.g. projects demonstrably cutting carbon, restoring nature etc) on the Diocesan website and through wider communication channels (e.g. celebrate and include number of awarded churches etc</i></p>	<p><i>J) TBC</i></p> <p><i>K) TBC</i></p> <p><i>L) Consider a separate website</i></p>
End 2029	Diocese Eco Church Gold	Criteria not yet developed by ARocha	Not due

6 Specific actions for churches

Our approach follows the principles of church carbon reduction shown in the diagram below:



a. Well maintained

Reduce heat loss by keeping on top of basic maintenance and ensuring the building is wind and watertight. Maintain the roof and gutters, to prevent water from entering the building and warm air escaping. Fix any broken window panes and make sure opening windows shut tightly.

b. Buy renewable

Switch to 100% renewable electricity, for example through Parish Buying's energy basket, and "green" gas. Whilst this does not reduce the energy you use, it means it comes from a cleaner source. It is the simplest thing you can do to cut your net carbon footprint. If you combine electric heating with 100% renewable electricity, your church will be approaching net zero carbon.

c. Waste less

Take small simple actions to waste less electricity, waste less gas/oil, tackle any food waste, reduce leaks and wasting water, and avoid unnecessary purchases. Read the "Practical Path to Net Zero" and "Energy Efficiency Guidance" for a wide range of ideas.

d. Electric not gas/oil

Burning oil and gas to heat our churches are contributing greenhouse gasses to the atmosphere. We need to "decarbonise" our heating. Where possible, move to electric heating, using electricity that comes from 100% renewable sources. There are many options such as heat pumps, pew heaters, and infra-red panel heaters and chandeliers.

e. Generate more

For some churches, there are opportunities to generate electricity onsite from solar PV panels, or very occasionally wind turbines or small-scale hydro. Early advice on feasibility is recommended.

f. Offset the rest

Once you have made real reductions in your energy use, you can offset the small remaining amount through Climate Stewards or other reputable schemes to become 'net zero'. Churches with grounds can also consider if there is an area where they could let vegetation or a tree grow, as a natural way to capture carbon from the air.

Deadline	Topic	'Ask'/ National Church Guidance	Blackburn response
No specific	Caring for God's Acre	Parishes to engage with opportunities to enhance the biodiversity of their churchyards through work such as that led by Caring for God's Acre.	<i>Caring for God's Acre promoted via diocesan channels in summer 2023</i>
End 2022	Energy Footprint Tool	Promote the Energy Footprint Tool to churches, and the Energy Toolkit to other building managers, to enable data collection	<i>2021 return rate was 37% for churches 2022 return rate was 53% for churches</i>
End 2022	Work with highest emitters	Identify your 20% and invite them to create a Net Zero Carbon Action Plan by end 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Identified highest 20% from 2022 data</i> • <i>Propose that church energy audit/NCZ plan be funded for highest 20% from national church funding in 2023</i> • <i>Identified from QIs which churches would benefit from new heating and/or lighting schemes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>26 churches have boilers that are recommended for replacement or described as old, needing review/upgrade</i> ○ <i>47 churches have recommendations to install modern LED lighting – cost estimate to change = £600-£800k</i> ○ <i>20 churches have boilers that are 10-20 years old and 21 churches have part-LED schemes</i> ○ <i>59 churches have boilers that are <10 years old and 27 churches have full LED schemes</i> • <i>Identified from national church unit cost data the cost of retrofitting the top 20% emitting churches.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Very high CO2 reduction (20%): £2.5m,</i> ○ <i>High CO2 reduction (5-20%): £4.6-8.7m,</i> ○ <i>Medium CO2 reduction (1-5%): £5.5-£9.2m</i> ○ <i>Low CO2 reductions (<1%): £220k</i> ○ <i>Range: £12.8-£20.6m</i> • <i>DBF Directors approved 'eco-loans' scheme for churches with up to 6.5 year payback</i>

30 th Sept 2023 or 31 st March 2024	Demonstrator Projects	<p>DACs asked by National Church to identify 1% (3No.) of churches that meet at least one of the criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In national 600 highest emitters from 2021 data • In diocese highest 20% emitters • Have oil fired boilers • Current heating system has less than 2 years operating life <p>Benefit from support with fundraising and a capital grant of 25% of project cost</p>	<i>Seven possible buildings identified – final list of three agreed by Senior Church Buildings Officer and relevant PCCs in September 2023</i>
End 2023	Cathedral	Specific focus on cathedrals	<i>Specific grants available from national church to commission a de-carbonisation plan to RIBA St2</i>
End 2024	Switching campaign	All dioceses to have run switching campaigns to encourage occupiers to switch to 'green' electricity and, having reviewed options to replace fossil fuels, any building remaining with gas heating should be encouraged to switch to green gas tariffs at the point of contract renewal*, based on national advice about the criteria to apply. Timing of this milestone to be kept under review, depending on stabilisation of the energy markets and / or government action.	<i>Will need to wait until energy markets have stabilised</i>
End 2025	Coach EV Charging	Review opportunities to install electric charging for coaches for those churches that are tourist destinations.	<i>Not applicable - Cathedral and Lancaster Priory are most likely tourist destinations and not readily accessible by coach.</i>

7 Specific actions for offices (Clayton House)

Deadline	Topic	'Ask' / National Church Guidance	Blackburn response
No specific	Building strategy	Reviewing how offices are used, in terms of physical meetings, desk utilisation, and room rental. Simple layout changes can improve energy efficiency. Decide if you are in the right building.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of in-person meetings reduced since Covid/flexible-working policy. • Clayton House is c. 30 years old and more energy efficient than Church House but improvements can be made. Need De-carbonisation report for building
End 2023	Office Eco church award	Bronze	Clayton House was awarded Bronze in August 2023
End 2023	Measure and report on emissions	All offices to measure and report on their carbon emissions by inputting utility bill information and floor area into the Energy Toolkit	2022 data submitted - 34.6t/CO2
End 2023	Write net zero action plan	All offices have at least a high level Net Zero Carbon Plan, including some consideration of space availability and needs. The plan should make reference to the Practical Path to Net Zero and actively consider implementation of 'quick wins', how to decarbonise heat and how to reduce energy consumption. The Action Plan should also contain a Heating Resilience Plan which should consider how to manage heat should the existing system fail to avoid needing a quick like-for-like fossil-fuel replacement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diocesan Surveyor produced a 30 year maintenance plan for Clayton House in summer 2023 – roof not due for renewal until 2043 so might be feasible to add solar panels if cost-effective • Decarbonisation plan to be produced in 2024 (subject to national funding) • Carbon literacy training for staff planned for 2024 to work towards behavioural change eg not leaving equipment on standby, turning off lights when leaving rooms, replacing lights with LEDs, appropriate heating and air-con settings etc. • Diocesan Travel Plan produced in September 2023 (Appendix 4) • Ensuring equipment replacements are energy efficient.
End 2023	Electric car charging points	Review the potential for installation of electric vehicle charging points and the provision of dedicated car parking spaces for electric cars. If appropriate, then move ahead to installation	Plan approved to install four points at Clayton House by end March 2024 overseen by DBE Services
End 2024	Switch to green energy tariffs	All offices, at the point of contract renewal, switch to 100% green electricity tariff. Having reviewed options to replace fossil fuels, all offices that remain with gas heating switch to a 'green' gas tariff at the point of contract renewal, based on national advice about the criteria to apply. Timing of this milestone to be kept under review, depending on stabilisation of the energy markets and / or government action.	Will need to wait until energy markets have stabilised

8 Specific actions for clergy/Diocesan Board of Finance housing

Deadline	Topic	'Ask' / National Church Guidance	Blackburn response
No specific	Electric cookers	Encourage tenants (including clergy) to replace existing gas cookers with energy-efficient electric cookers at end-of-life.	<i>Grants are available to clergy to replace their cookers</i>
No specific	Utilise government incentives	The UK government announced VAT relief on energy saving materials for residential accommodation in the Spring Statement 2022 and the Boiler Upgrade Scheme from April 2022	<i>To be discussed at property committee in autumn 2023</i>
No specific	EV Charging points	Review the potential for installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging points (where off-street parking is available) at change of occupancy	<i>Grants of 50% of cost of installation (up to £500) available for clergy</i>
No specific	Solar panels	Review the potential for installation of solar photo-voltaic panels (with battery if appropriate) at change of occupancy, or as part of a review of renewable potential across the estate.	<i>DBF policy is to consider value for money of installation at the same time as replacing a roof</i>
End 2023	Audit clergy housing	All dioceses audit clergy property (where possible) in preparation for a property retrofitting plan. Stock survey re: Energy Performance Certificates	<i>Review of QIs completed to end March 2023</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 39 properties require additional roof space insulation • 38 properties might require cavity wall insulation • 9 might require additional double glazing <i>Total Cost for all interventions = £200k to be completed in 2023</i> <i>Current EPCs available for 94 (45%) properties</i>
End 2023	Retrofitting and maintenance plan	All dioceses to have retrofitting and maintenance plans in place. These should include a Heating Resilience Plan which should consider how to manage heat should the existing system fail to avoid needing a quick like-for-like fossil-fuel replacement.	<i>Draft policy to be discussed at Property Committee in autumn 2023.</i>
End 2024	Switch to green energy tariffs	All dioceses to have run switching campaigns to encourage occupiers to switch to 'green' electricity and, having reviewed options to replace fossil fuels, any building remaining with gas heating should be encouraged to switch to green gas tariffs at the point of contract renewal, based on national advice about the criteria to apply.	<i>Will need to wait until energy markets have stabilised</i>
End 2024	Stock improvement plan	All dioceses to have stock improvement plans in place, having regard to the timing of when properties become vacant. The plan should make reference to the Practical Path to Net Zero and actively consider implementation of 'quick wins', how to	<i>Review of stock planned for 2023. Discussed at Property Committee (May 2023). Aim will be to seek replacement properties for those vicarages where retrofitting energy efficiency solutions not feasible eg stone built</i>

		decarbonise heat and how to reduce energy consumption.	
End 2030	Smart meters	Install smart meters at change of tenancy, and no later than 2030 to assist with monitoring and management of energy consumption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Not due.</i> • <i>Decision to install smart meter is with incumbent</i>

9 Specific actions for schools

Our schools are covered by DBE Services who used government funding to undertake heat decarbonisations plans in 2021.

Schools are reliant on government funding that has relatively low cost/benefit thresholds especially Voluntary Aided schools that have to pay VAT on any capital works.

The DBE has a policy to encourage all local authority new build schools to have a non-carbon heat source and in effect be a net zero carbon building.

Deadline	Topic	'Ask'/ National Church Guidance	Blackburn response
No specific	School coach hire policy	Developing and sharing a recommended school coach hire policy which suggests the use of low-carbon transport wherever possible and contains a sustainable coach hire hierarchy (e.g. public transport has been assessed as not feasible therefore: hire an electric coach, hire a biofuel coach, hire an ultra-low emission coach, use a coach of the correct size).	<i>The DBE has negligible influence on this school policy.</i> <i>No evidence of school transport providers offering hybrid or electric vehicles for school work</i>
End 2023	Boilers at end of life	Dioceses to identify schools with boilers approaching end-of-life and support schools through funding feasibility to identify opportunities for a more sustainable solution and apply for grant funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to deliver those by 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Energy audits/heat decarbonisation plans completed (£250k cost) for all VA, VC and Cidari schools in 2021 (12 out of scope).</i> • <i>£150m requirement for whole DBE school estate. Government funding only supports £325/t Co2 saved (= £280t/CO2 for VA schools that pay VAT) schemes (6% of schools). If payback was £600 t/CO2 then 66% of schools eligible</i> • <i>Possibility of six schemes to link a school ASHP with adjacent church; Newchurch, Accrington St Mary, Whalley, Bretherton, Langho and Leck.</i>
End 2023	Smart meters	Diocesan Board of Education to take the lead in the promotion of smart meter installations in schools and be undertaking data analysis from the information provided	<i>DBE wrote to schools in 2021/22 to encourage installation of smart meters</i>

10 Specific actions for work-related travel

Deadline	Topic	'Ask'/ National Church Guidance	Blackburn response
End 2023	Travel plan	All dioceses to develop or update a travel plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>2023 Travel Plan reflects the location of Clayton House on the top of a hill with limited access to public transport.</i> • <i>Current diocesan expenses policy encourages public transport use wherever practicable</i>
End 2024	Travel policies	All dioceses to review and update travel and expenses policies to encourage sustainable transport. If appropriate, E-bikes should form part of any pool of vehicles available for work-related travel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Review of expenses policy happening in 2024 with consideration to offering UK government mileage rates for cycling, motorbikes and carrying passengers on business.</i> • <i>Reviewing opportunities in 2024 to offer the Government Cycle to Work Scheme and/or low interest loans for electric cars</i>

11 Specific actions for land

The DBF has 119 Ha (295 acres) of land in 64 parcels. Ten of the parcels are under the 'care' of the incumbent.

Deadline	Topic	'Ask' / National Church Guidance	Blackburn response
End 2022	Tenancy agreement review	Dioceses to review with their land agents the terms of tenancy agreements to include net zero and biodiversity ambitions	<i>Glebe land sits under investment committee. Review of agreements to be undertaken in 2023/24</i>
End 2023	Land management plan	All dioceses audit their landholdings and develop a land management plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBF has a relatively small area of glebe land that will be mapped in 2023 • Continue to promote <i>Caring for God's Acre, Churches Count on Nature & Beautiful Burial Grounds</i> in conjunction with DAC environmental guidelines for churchyards.
End 2025	Land management agreements	<p>All dioceses to align land management agreements going forward with the diocesan environmental policy objectives.</p> <p>Land agents should be encouraged to consider a baseline survey of emissions using third-part contractors and to undertake a natural capital audit and renewable review.</p>	<i>Not due</i>
End 2026	Audit land holdings	<p>Audit landholdings and develop a land management plan.</p> <p>A plan should treat glebe as a single diocesan estate and produce a baseline audit, including a map (preferably digital) and, for each parcel, land use and tenancy details.</p>	<i>Not due</i>

12 Residual emissions

The Route map encourages reduction in emissions as far as possible with an aim that less than 10% remains by 2030. The remaining emissions will need to be offset to be net zero carbon.



We will be exploring joining national, regional and local opportunities for off-setting recognising that, in its current format, the process will require financial outlay to third parties with no direct savings to PCCs, schools or the DBF.

13 Risks/Challenges and solutions

Diocese of Blackburn Carbon Net Zero Risk Register (August 2023)								
Risk Description. Due to....There is a risk that....leading to...	Probability	Severity	Score	Mitigation (summer 2023)	Mitigated Probability	Severity	Score	
Due to other priorities there is a risk that there is insufficient direction from diocesan episcopal/archdeacon on carbon net zero/environment/creation care leading to apathy/lack of urgency in parishes	4	5	20	* Steering Group in place with bishop's chaplain and Diocesan Secretary reporting to Vision and Strategy * Request to identify the lead bishop and/or archdeacon who will actively promote environmental actions * Vision and Strategy team demonstrate personal commitment to environmental actions - eg bishop's houses, travel, sermons	3	5	15	
Due to other priorities there is a risk that there is insufficient direction from parochial leadership on carbon net zero/environment/creation care leading to apathy/lack of urgency in parishes for providing data and prioritising actions for reducing energy/carbon by 2030	4	5	20	* Establish a learning community for representatives from the highest emitting churches * Continue to promote environmental stories via Parish Update and website	3	5	15	
Due to either a lack of parish-based fundraising capacity/capability and/or insufficient national grants there is a risk that solutions for reducing energy/carbon are unable to be funded leading to local frustration and delays in journey to net zero	4	5	20	* National church will be releasing further tranches of funding through to 2028 (detailed criteria unclear) * Need to decide whether to create role(s) to specifically support parishes in environmental grant funding applications	3	5	15	
Due to a lack of availability of cost effective suitably qualified consultants/contractors there is a risk that solutions for reducing energy/carbon are unable to be delivered in a timely manner leading to local frustration and delays in the journey to net zero	4	5	20	* Connections via DBE Services	3	5	15	
Colour coding key								
Extremely high	25							
Very High	20							
High	15-20							

14 What resources will be needed?

The activities outlined in the sections above will need to be supported by additional resources, ideally funded through national church grants:

Funding required (from St2 bid to national church or Diocesan Vision Fund if bid unsuccessful)

Decarbonisation Plans

35 plans procured as part of a regional project via DBE Services for highest emitting churches in the Diocese of Blackburn (that have provided energy footprint data for 2022 and not covered by other funding sources) plus Whalley Abbey plus Clayton House = **£73,500 direct Blackburn cost** out of £357,000 regional total.

Regional Contract Decarbonisation Report Project Manager support one day/week over 12 months = **£30,000 (Direct Blackburn cost = £10,000 based on one day in three direct input)**

- Key point of liaison between the report consultants and parishes across the three dioceses to iron out access/data issues
- Help parishes understand what the reports mean for them

Project Management

Full-time employed regional senior Project Manager role supporting the three dioceses and the regional delivery plan = **£120,000 (Direct Blackburn cost = £36,000 based on 1.5 days/week direct input)**

- a. oversight of Steering Group – agenda, minutes etc
- b. oversight of project plan, risk register for St2 works in liaison with DBE Services
- c. oversight of regional co-ordination meetings – agenda, minutes etc
- d. co-ordination with DAC/Senior buildings Officer
- e. co-ordination of energy footprint tool data collection
- f. produce annual update to DBF Directors and Diocesan Synod including liaison with appropriate DBF/DBE staff

Fundraising support for parishes

Full-time regional CNZ Fundraising Manager for two years from 1st January 2024 = **£90,000 (Direct Blackburn cost = £30,000)**

- Work with 3x diocesan giving teams on providing specific advice on how churches can access environmental grants
- Liaise with NW based grant funders to encourage more grants being made available for churches

Volunteer/'existing day job'

- Diocesan Environmental Officer – assumed to continue to be a volunteer (Rev Canon Professor John Rodwell)
- Steering Group members (other than Project Manager) assumed to be volunteers and/or as part of their 'day job'
- ALM Elective tutors – assumed to be volunteers and/or as part of their 'day job'
- Communications – assumed to be part of the Communications Manager plus assistants (paid and voluntary) 'day job' to promote eco-church stories

15 What will it cost and how will you fund it?

The National Church of England has allocated over £190m between 2022 and 2030 as a contribution towards the cost of decarbonisation.

DBF

We received a £15k start grant from national church that has funded project management support to the end of December 2023. Ongoing Project Management resource will be funded by Stage 2 grant to the national church (on a regional basis).

It has been estimated that the cost of decarbonising the DBF's directly owned assets is:

- Clergy housing - £200k direct plus £TBC for replacing vicarages where carbon reduction interventions are not viable (eg stone built)
- Whalley Abbey - £200k for urgent replacement of gas boiler. Green alternatives not viable due to ancient monument restrictions preventing ground source heat pump/hydro-electricity and insufficient electrical capacity to supply an air-source heat pump.
- Clayton House - TBC during 2024

We plan to fund the works from the usual parish share budget and any available grants.

Parishes/cathedral

Using the standard solutions matrix provided by the national church in summer 2023 that includes carbon reduction solutions for churches in four size bands based on floorspace the estimated cost for the churches in the Diocese of Blackburn:

	Highest 20% emitting churches	The remaining 80% of churches	TOTAL
High CO2 reduction	£2.5m	£7.5-£10m	£10-£12.5m
Medium CO2 reduction	£4.6-£8.7m	£15m-£30m	£19.6m-£38.7m
Low CO2 reduction	£5.5-£9.2m	£16m-£33m	£21.5m-£42.2m
Very low CO2 reduction	£0.9m	£3m	£3.9m
TOTAL	£13.5m - £21.3m	£41.5m-£76m	£55m-£97.3m

NB For context, the total current backlog of quinquennial maintenance in the diocese is c. £10m across all churches.

Potential funding sources:

- 1) From autumn 2023 all parishes will be able to apply for DBF loans for up to 6.5 years to fund net zero actions eg LED replacement of halogen bulbs
- 2) Parishes are encouraged via Parish Update, Giving Advisors and Archdeacons to apply to the Lancashire Environmental Fund (not available in Blackburn with Darwen or Blackpool Unitary Authority Areas) and other charities specifically supporting carbon net zero.
- 3) Stage 2 national church funding to be applied for in October 2023 as part of a regional collaboration with Carlisle and Manchester Dioceses for decarbonisation audits/building-specific cost estimates for the highest emitting churches that have completed their 2022 EFT data
- 4) Three churches to be proposed for national funding as Blackburn Demonstrator projects in autumn 2023 that will provide c. 25% of capital costs (assumes local fundraising capacity)
- 5) The DBF will engage with future rounds of national funding, either alone or with other dioceses, as it is made available

The cathedral will benefit from ring-fenced national church grant funding via the Cathedrals and Buildings Division.

Schools

Decarbonisation of the entire list of Voluntary Aided/Voluntary Controlled and Cidari Multi-Academy Trust schools has been estimated to be £150m. The majority of the interventions are currently not deemed to meet the cost/benefit threshold set by the government.

DBE Services will continue to work with the national church carbon and Church of England Education Office to lobby for additional government funding.

16 What is the timeline for action – Q4 2023 and 2024?

These are the core activities and milestones that are planned between October 2023 and December 2024. Additional activities may be added depending on the roll out of national church initiatives.

Key task/milestones	2023	2024			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Diocesan roadmap to Diocesan Synod	Oct				
St2 application to national church	Oct				
St2 church decarbonisation plan production					
Demonstrator projects implementation					
Establish 'ecochurch/net zero' learning community					
Bronze Eco Diocese - complete actions for award					
Clergy housing and Clayton House retrofitting plan					
Design Creation Stewardship ALM elective					
Roll out Creation Stewardship ALM elective					
2023 EFT data collection					
Update to Diocesan Synod					Oct
Silver Eco Diocese - actions					
Switching campaigns (church/vicarages/schools)					
Smart meter campaign (churches/vicarages/schools)					

17 Communication Strategy

We will continue to promote carbon net zero and EcoChurch to parishes through our existing DBF communication channels with incumbents, PCCs and congregation attendees ie Parish Update, social media channels and website plus interactions with Archdeacons and the DAC on buildings matters.

DBE Services will continue to promote carbon net zero with our church schools.

18 Monitoring, reporting and plan review

The following groups will be monitoring and reporting progress against this action plan:

- Steering Group meets bi-monthly and update to following Vision and Strategy meeting
- Annual update to Bishop's Council and Diocesan Synod (inclusion in DBF annual report)
- Full plan review for October 2025 and October 2027 Diocesan Synods

What information will be tracked by the Steering Group?

- Progress against milestones - monthly
- Spend against budget (grants) - quarterly
- Net CO2 emitted via EFT - annually
- EFT completion rate - monthly (from Jan-July)

Appendix 1 Highest 20% emitters – churches based upon 2022 EFT (net/CO2)

NB Churches greyed out ineligible for National Church Funding as no data returned for 2022

Deanery Name	Church Name	2021 actual data	2021 Net CO2 adjusted	2022 actual data	2022 Net CO2 adjusted	change since 2021 (actual to actual)	2022 Sq M rating	national top 600 Gross in 2021?
Lancaster & Morecambe	Lancaster: St Mary (The Priory)	no	21.1	YES	49.1		G	
Poulton	Thornton-le-Fylde: Christ Church	YES	30.7	YES	42.9	40%	G	YES
Blackpool	Blackpool: Holy Trinity, South Shore	no	21.1	YES	35.7		E	
Lancaster & Morecambe	Lancaster: Christ Church	YES	7.9	YES	33.3	322%	G	YES
Kirkham	Ansdell and Fairhaven: St Paul	no	7.4	YES	32.9		G	
Pendle	Colne: St Bartholomew	YES	6.9	YES	31.0	349%	G	
Preston	Longridge: St Paul	YES	30.0	no	30.0			YES
Chorley	Standish: St Wilfrid	YES	12.4	YES	27.6	123%	F	
Burnley	Burnley: St Peter	no	21.1	YES	26.9		F	
Blackburn with Darwen	Blackburn: St Silas	no	21.1	YES	25.2		E	
Whalley	Clitheroe: St James	no	21.1	YES	24.2		F	
Chorley	Chorley: St Laurence	YES	40.8	YES	24.1	-41%	E	YES
Burnley	Burnley (Habergham Eaves): St Matthew The Apostle	YES	17.1	YES	23.5	37%	D	
Chorley	Chorley: St Peter	YES	19.7	YES	22.9	16%	C	YES
Chorley	Chorley: St George	YES	37.5	YES	22.6	-40%	E	YES
Burnley	Padiham: St Leonard	YES	9.6	YES	22.4	133%	F	
Preston	Broughton: St John the Baptist	no	6.8	YES	21.8		F	
Whalley	Clitheroe: St Mary Magdalene	no	21.1	YES	21.8		F	
Chorley	Adlington: St Paul	no	21.1	no	21.1			
Poulton	Fleetwood: St Peter	no	21.1	no	21.1			
Garstang	Preesall: St Oswald	no	21.1	no	21.1			
Preston	Preston: St John	no	21.1	no	21.1			
Kirkham	St Annes-on-Sea: St Thomas	no	21.1	no	21.1			
Burnley	Burnley: St Andrew w St Margaret	YES	23.6	YES	20.8	-12%	C	YES
Burnley	Burnley: St Stephen	YES	23.6	YES	20.8	-12%	F	
Leyland	Penwortham: St Mary	YES	14.1	YES	20.8	48%	F	
Blackpool	Blackpool: St John	YES	17.0	YES	20.2	19%	D	YES
Accrington	Accrington: St John	YES	20.4	YES	19.4	-5%	E	YES
Preston	Preston: St Cuthbert	YES	19.5	YES	19.0	-3%	D	YES
Whalley	Whalley: St Mary & All Saints	no	21.1	YES	18.9		E	
Whalley	Waddington: St Helen	YES	16.8	YES	17.4	4%	G	YES
Burnley	Burnley: St Catherine	no	16.2	no	16.2			
Burnley	Burnley: St Cuthbert	YES	6.8	YES	15.9	134%	D	
Leyland	Walton-le-Dale: St Leonard	YES	122.2	YES	15.3	-87%	E	YES

Blackburn with Darwen	Darwen: St Peter	no	21.1	YES	14.9		D	
Preston	Preston: All Saints	YES	18.0	YES	14.5	-19%	C	YES
Whalley	Langho: St Leonard	YES	14.3	no	14.3			
Kirkham	Lytham: St John the Divine	YES	14.3	no	14.3			
Whalley	Chipping: St Bartholomew	YES	10.3	YES	14.1	37%	F	
Accrington	Musbury: St Thomas	YES	14.9	YES	14.1	-5%	G	
Blackpool	Blackpool: Holy Cross	no	8.7	YES	13.1		no data	
Whalley	Read-in-Whalley: St John the Evangelist	no	6.8	YES	12.8		G	
Chorley	Whittle-le-Woods: St John the Evangelist	YES	17.8	YES	12.6	-29%	D	YES
Blackburn with Darwen	Blackburn: St Stephen	YES	11.4	YES	12.3	8%	B	
Blackburn with Darwen	Blackburn: St Luke w St Philip	YES	0.8	YES	12.2	1425%	D	
Lancaster & Morecambe	Cockerham: St Michael	YES	16.7	YES	12.2	-27%	E	YES
Whalley	Clitheroe: St Paul	YES	11.8	YES	11.8	0%	C	
Blackpool	Blackpool: St Peter, South Shore	no	8.7	YES	11.3		D	
Chorley	Croston: St Michael & All Angels	YES	23.8	YES	10.9	-54%	C	YES
Accrington	Huncoat: St Augustine	YES	9.2	YES	10.9	18%	D	
Garstang	Bilsborrow: St Hilda	YES	15.6	YES	10.6	-32%	C	
Tunstall	Silverdale: St John	no	6.8	YES	10.6		D	
Pendle	Barrowford: St Thomas	no	8.7	YES	10.5		no data	

A Vision of Creation

Environmental Policy & Procedures for Blackburn Diocese

The Revelation of God in Creation

The grace of God which shows forth in the Passion of Christ welcomes us into a relationship of love and the prospect of a new and glorious liberty. With this same generosity God called life into being at the outset and for nothing other than to enjoy him for ever. On this costly generosity, and on nothing else, do we - and all that has evolved - depend for our very existence.

The Spirit of God which claims us as members of the community of the redeemed in our baptism, this is the same Spirit which brooded on the face of the waters before the start of time, moving back and forth, telling of the extent of God's yearning that we and all that there is might know him.

Key texts: Genesis 1,1-2,4a, 2,4b-25;
Job 28,

1-11; Romans 8,18-25; Colossians 1,15-20;

John 1,1-14; 3,1-8.

The Environmental Policy of Blackburn Diocese is grounded in this dependence upon the will of God for his Church here and now, and in the future that he allows us to shape together. It is our response of the Church of England's vision for a sustainable future in *Sharing God's Planet* (2005) and the Fifth Mark of Mission of the Anglican Communion: 'To strive to safeguard the integrity of Creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth'. Within Vision 2026, our

commitment is part of Bearing Witness – bearing witness to the generosity of God in his Creation, to our responsibility to the common home we share with all his creatures and to meeting human need from the gifts of Creation.

Our concern for Creation is given added urgency by the Climate & Biodiversity Emergency. We see this as a challenge to change our ways of living, an echo of the prophets' call to repentance and renewal of the God-given life we share with all Creation. In a 2020 General Synod motion, the Church of England committed to a 2030 Net Zero emissions target for the

bulk of its estate and operations. In 2022 our own Diocesan Synod charged us with setting up a Net Zero Working Group and producing a road map to 2030 Net Zero, working with every church and establishing projects and resourcing.

The original Environmental Policy & Procedures was drafted by a Sub-Committee of the then Board for Social Responsibility and this revision has been made by the Net Zero Working Group. Its recommendations are a challenge to every sphere of the Church's life in the Diocese, a commitment to be shared by the whole people of God in Blackburn diocese.

The diocese is also committed to promoting Eco Church and registered as an EcoDiocese. Our Environmental Policy and Procedures outline our commitments under the main heads of the Eco Church questionnaire which enable parishes to monitor their progress in Creation Care through worship and prayer, in mission & learning, in care for our buildings and land, through our finance and investments and in our work with peoples of other faiths and none to secure a shared future for Creation.

Ways in which our parishes and school can apply the Diocesan Policy and Procedures to change our lives as Christians in church, at home and at work are shown thus below ►

The Celebration of God's grace in Creation

Humankind is unique among all living things in being able to proclaim that the natural world we depend on and perceive with our senses is a Creation that is dependent upon the love of God and exists at some cost to him. On behalf of Creation, the Church has a calling to give voice to this through celebration in worship and prayer, proclaiming 'O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord'.



Key texts: I Chronicles 29, 10-14; Psalms 8, 65, 104, 145, 147, 148; Song of the Three 26-68.

In the Crucifixion of Jesus, we see our capacity to destroy God-given life and are called to repent of our share in this wounding of God's love. Sharing in the risen life of his Resurrection, we seek God's grace and power to bring all Creation to renewal. In its commemoration of

the sacrificial grace of God in Jesus Christ, the Church takes 'creatures of bread and wine', setting them in a framework of blessing and remembrance. These Eucharistic gifts speak of God's passion for all he has made, that through the flesh and blood of Creation he makes

himself known. All of our takings from nature need to be marked by a blessing: that is, by prayerful declaration that they - and we - are in a state of dependency upon the love of God.

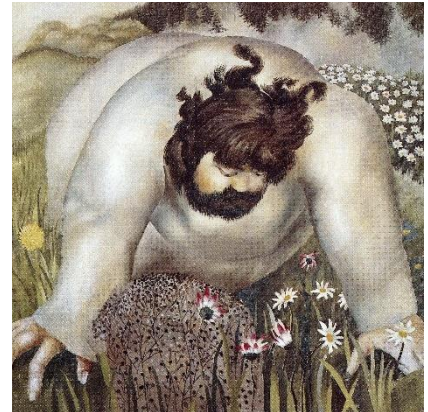
There is a wealth of material to help enrich the Church's calendar with commemorations of God's grace in Creation, providing liturgies and prayers for organisations, groups, families and individuals through which blessings can be made.

Ways we can care for Creation:

- ▶ **Think afresh about Scripture readings, psalms and hymns that celebrate the splendour and power of Creation.**
- ▶ **Use Creationtide, harvest festival, Rogationtide and the feast of St Francis of Assisi to recall our dependence on the gifts of Creation and the turning of the seasons.**
- ▶ **Use the seasons of Advent and Lent to share in lament for the damage God's Creation bears.**
- ▶ **Encourage your preachers to give serious attention to Creation and make opportunity to discuss their sermons with them.**
- ▶ **If your church has imagery in stained glass, paintings or carvings, use an interpretive leaflet to help parishioners and visitors understand their significance in evoking the glories of Creation**
- ▶ **Decorate your church with the natural gifts of Creation taken thoughtfully from the churchyard, hedgerows and waysides rather than with costly flowers flown from afar and display these without the use of plastic products.**
- ▶ **Use table graces to remember the generosity of God in his Creation, our dependence his gifts and the skills of those who have produced the food and the meals.**

Mission & Learning in Creation

We are empowered by the Spirit to proclaim the Good News of God in the Risen Christ for all Creation, and to nurture people in the church and community through learning, encouraging vocations to ministry and transforming society through knowledge of the presence of God, wonder at his work in Creation and responsible use of the skills he gives to humankind for its stewardship.



Key texts: Isaiah 49,1-6; 55,1-11; Psalm 19, 7-

14; Matthew 6,25-34, 13,18-23; 2 Timothy

3,14-4,5.

In debating, planning and delivering training for laity and clergy in the diocese, learning about God's gifts in Creation and our stewardship of the earth is part of waiting upon the will of God through this life and beyond. In our schools we can foster wonder at, understanding of and responsibility for the natural world through the National Curriculum and school activities.

Ways we can care for Creation:

► Devote a parish study group to discussing key biblical texts on Creation and stewardship, the teaching of the Church and current scientific thinking about the environmental challenges facing society at the present time.

► Use the parish magazine and website for publishing environmental initiatives and concerns and examples of best practice of Creation Care.

► Make sure you know about the opportunities for learning about environmental responsibility in the Diocesan training programme and in local learning initiatives. Offer what skills you have yourself for sharing your own knowledge about the natural world and the wise use of resources.

► Use your church as a location for a wider discussion among local Christians and others about the natural world and the environmental crises. Involve your local community through initiatives like Forest Church.

► **Encourage your local school to adopt its own environmental policy and to give concern for Creation a higher profile in its activities, both inside school and out.**

Churches, schools and other buildings

The Climate Emergency presents an unprecedented challenge for all the peoples of the earth to take account of our misuse of Creation and make amends. We believe that the Church should play its own part in this response and that it has some particular contributions to make.

Key texts: Genesis 9,8-17; Isaiah 52,7-10;

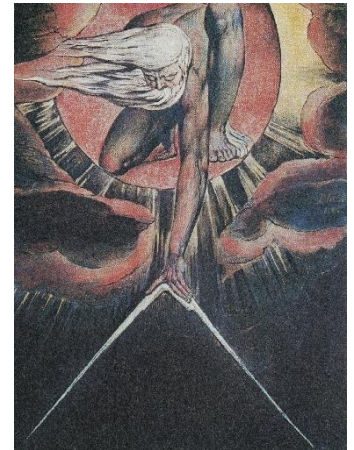
Matthew 13,24-30; Romans 13,11-14; I

Thessalonians 5,1-11

Our weather varies naturally over the long term but most scientists now agree that human activity, particularly the

burning of fossil fuels through the industrial age,

has caused substantial rises in those gases in the earth's atmosphere which affect climate. Current thinking predicts global increases in temperature with shifts in rainfall patterns, sea-level rise and more violent extreme weather events. Though effects may be more threatening elsewhere on earth, the UK will experience changes of its own.



Ways we can care for Creation:

► **The Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) is the national platform from which we can see the church's carbon emissions baseline and mark progress towards the 2030 Net Zero target. It enables parishes to calculate their carbon footprint based on the energy used to heat and light them. Engage with the EFT through Parish returns using entry of your utility bills and energy sources.**

► **Reduce the heat loss of parish buildings by keeping on top of basic maintenance, ensuring they are wind- and watertight and well-insulated against heat loss.**

► **Waste less by more economic use of heating & lighting, for example with better smart technology control of boiler timings and by switching to LED bulbs.**

► **Burning oil and gas to heat our buildings creates greater emissions than using electricity. Where possible decarbonise heating by switching to electric, if possible from 100%**

renewable sources. The DAC will provide advice on new and better ways of energy conservation.

► Some parishes may have the opportunity to generate electricity onsite from solar PV roof panels for which Faculty Rules have now been relaxed. There may even be the chance to use wind turbines or small-scale hydro generation.

Key texts: Genesis 1,27-31; 2,19-20; 28,13-15; Exodus 16; Deuteronomy 6,10-15; 26,1-11; Leviticus 25,1-7; Amos 8,4-6;

► After making such real reductions in emissions as is possible, think about offsetting the rest through reputable schemes like Climate Stewards. Where a parish has land available, longer-term carbon capture by tree-planting may be possible.

► Engage with the diocesan programme of decarbonisation for churches and schools.

Land & biodiversity

In the biblical traditions, the land is an unearned gift from God, the place where he meets his people and where they have a shared history together. Yet, often, we give the land no rest and God's kingdom is not built by what we construct there.



God gave humankind the privilege of naming all his creatures, yet often we call them to do our will, forgetful of their beauty and wider place in nature. Food and drink are blessings of Creation and a shared meal lies at the heart of our worship, yet much food production is corrupt, and water wasted.

Ways we can care for Creation:

- ▶ **Blackburn diocese has 64 parcels of glebe land totalling 295 acres (120 hectares) and is developing a policy in line with the Glebe Guidance Note to minimise emissions, safeguard biodiversity and maintain an investment income through tenancy agreements.**
- ▶ **Many parishes have a churchyard or associated graveyard which can be managed to minimise carbon emissions and encourage wildlife, while maintaining a proper atmosphere of respect for their gravestones and monuments and an attractive welcoming approach to buildings. Plant indigenous sustainable trees and shrubs on church land, stop using inorganic fertilisers and pesticides and think about a more sustainable mowing regime. Caring for God's Acre can provide advice and examples of best practice.**
- ▶ **'Churches Count on Nature' is an annual event in June in which parishes can organise wildlife counts in their own churchyard, in collaboration with schools, wildlife charities and the local community.**
- ▶ **Think how you could use any land attached to faith buildings as a place for meditation, healing and learning about faithful dependence upon God's Creation. The Quiet Garden Trust that provides ideas and inspiration about the provision of space for silence, reflection and prayer.**

Finance, investment and social enterprise

Renewal is at the heart of the Christian experience, yet much of what we use from Creation is wasted and the real cost of God-given resources, made materials and processes is often improperly accounted. Human ingenuity and skills, time and money are gifts from God entrusted to us for the establishment of his Kingdom. They can be used to do business with the earth and earn a living from it but only where justice is done – justice to the earth itself, to employees and customers and to the future we conceive in our enterprises.

Key texts: Deuteronomy 26,1-10; I Kings 21;

Amos 8,4-6; Luke 12,16-31; Acts 2,42-47;
I

Corinthians 16,2; II Corinthians 9,6-15; I

Timothy 6,6-10



In its stewardship of financial resources to secure the training and sustaining of ministry, for building

and maintaining churches and for buying and selling parsonages and the Church's other property, we aim to maintain the highest ethical finance and investment standards, aware of its wider responsibility to sustain the fabric of Creation and the challenge of establishing the kingdom of God.

Ways we can care for Creation:

- ▶ **Reaffirm the theology and practice of Christian stewardship through preaching and teaching to challenge people to give to the Church and charities regularly at least at 5% of income.**
- ▶ **Aim to manage your parish and personal finances using a bank and advisers that are explicitly committed to investment with an environmental ethic, particularly a commitment to disinvestment in fossil fuels.**
- ▶ **Promote complete transparency in your parish and personal financial dealings, using open tendering for any works or services provided and looking for businesses which have a proven record of environmental care.**
- ▶ **Consider carefully those schemes which claim to offset environmental damage by some sort of trading in such things as 'carbon credits' or to offer tax benefits by investment in environmental enterprises.**
- ▶ **Use schemes such as Fairtrade when buying food and supplies for parish, school and home.**
- ▶ **Look at ways in which your congregation can support social enterprise developments - not-for-profit businesses that aim to provide sustainable ventures, community allotments and gardens, recycling and energy-generation schemes, and to include groups marginalised by society.**

Parish, personal and community lives

In the biblical account of Creation, humankind is given stewardship of all that God has made – a privilege and responsibility which falls upon each one of us.

In Blackburn Diocese we accept our share in working out together the practicalities of stewardship, within our committees and organisations, in the cathedral, parishes and church schools and among its Christian people. But this is also a personal responsibility which we should accept in our church life, at work, at home and in our wider community.

Ways we can care for Creation:

► **Remember that the food we buy affects energy consumption and contributes to human impacts on climate. Be discerning about more damaging things like the 'air-miles' needed to bring you what you like to eat. Where possible buy local produce.**

► **Road and air travel are among the most damaging of our impacts on the climate. Think whether you can walk or cycle for some of the journeys you make. Make responsible travelling part of your pilgrimage of life by considering using hybrid or electric vehicles, care-share schemes and public transport.**

► **Be less wasteful: cut down your use of paper and packaging; recycle household goods, mobile phones & printer cartridges, furniture, and clothes, use Fairtrade and organic products in your own lives as well as in church shops and refectories.**

► **Plastics are among the most persistent and damaging of materials. Avoid buying and using single-use plastics or products which contain them or release them in the form of microplastics.**

► **With any new investments, consider carefully the wider environmental costs of your actions and weigh the possible longer-term savings for future generations.**

Key texts: Leviticus 25,35-38;
Deuteronomy

24,19-22; Micah 4,1-5; Luke 10,29-37;
Mark

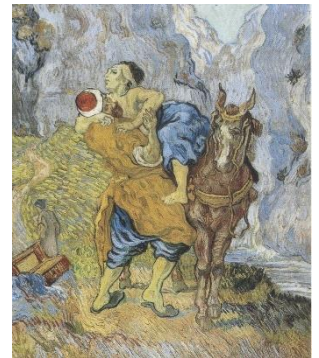
10,42-45; John 4,8-15;

► **Beyond this country, huge areas of the earth and their peoples are likely to be affected by drought and flooding and unseasonable storm events in future years. Act for them now, through your charitable giving to humanitarian agencies**

and disaster appeals as well as praying for justice to them and all Creation.

Securing the future together

In Blackburn Diocese, we share God's Creation with people of other Christians, peoples of other faiths and none, and with many organisations committed to understanding and caring for the environment. As responsible citizens, all of us are bound by environmental legislation and challenged by our government's own commitments to sustainability, nationally and for our North-West region. The Church also presents a prophetic challenge to government and asks what sort of future God has in store for his people, and for his whole Creation.



Ways we can care for Creation:

- ▶ **The Lund Principle commits the Anglican Church to not doing apart what can be done together with other Christians. In working with our neighbouring dioceses and with other denominations through Churches Together in Lancashire we can help all Christian peoples make the link between faith and environmental issues and cooperate in Creation Care.**
- ▶ **Think creatively about things which different faiths hold in common: use of faith land for religious and spiritual expression and for burials; the celebration of Creation and the seasons; the spiritual significance and symbolic power of animals and plants. These offer ways of talking and acting together for the benefit of all society and for the establishment of justice and peace through all Creation.**

Appendix 3 – DAC Environmental Policy (September 2023)

Diocese of Blackburn DAC Environmental Policy

September 2023

Next review date: September 2025

The Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) is committed to encouraging best practice in every matter relating to church buildings. Increasingly, this includes environmental sustainability and energy efficiency, reflecting the General Synod commitment to reaching net zero carbon by 2030 and the revised diocesan environmental policy and net zero roadmap (to be brought to diocesan synod in autumn 2023).

The DAC encourages all PCCs to complete the Energy Footprint Tool in the parish returns, undertake an energy audit of its church and associated buildings, and register as an Eco-Church.

The DAC will apply the following policies in forming its advice on faculty applications, where an application involves any of the identified areas. These policies aim to encourage PCCs to think about how they might apply best practice in works to church buildings and churchyards, whilst recognising that all measures will not be suitable or affordable for all parishes.

Before starting any work to a church building, the DAC encourages all PCCs to consider the Church Buildings Council guidance on reducing embodied carbon, which can be downloaded [here](#).

1. Building materials

The DAC will positively view applications where it can be demonstrated that any materials used in any works are sustainable, in that they are:

- ethically and/or locally sourced; or
- reclaimed from a reputable source; or
- have minimal emissions and minimal embodied carbon in the production process.

2. Churchyards and church land

The DAC will positively view applications for works within a churchyard which incorporate measures to encourage biodiversity.

The DAC will require applications for the felling of healthy trees or hedge clearance to demonstrate that the PCC:

- has explored options for compensatory planting either within the churchyard or as part of a tree-planting scheme; and
- has a clear proposal for the recycling of the waste timber and brash.

The DAC will positively view applications for paths and hardstanding where surfaces are in natural stone or permeable material, and/or where it can be demonstrated that the design is detailed to prevent run-off to sewers and increased flood risk.

3. Heating systems, heat loss and cooling systems

The DAC will positively view applications for the renewal or replacement of heating systems which utilise sustainable sources of fuel, for all or part of the system.

Additionally, it will positively view applications where the PCC can demonstrate that it:

- is purchasing its energy from renewable/green tariff supplies;
- has considered the possibility of zoned heating and whether this is appropriate for the current use of the building; and
- has considered the incorporation of smart controls.

The DAC will positively view applications for measures to minimise heat loss where it can be demonstrated that the proposals:

- have been prepared with reference to current heat loss calculations; and
- minimise the impact on the historic fabric and character of the building.

The DAC will require applications for the installation of cooling systems such as air-conditioning, to demonstrate all the above plus:

- that other measures such as better ventilation and adaptation of windows have been proven ineffective;
- any additional energy consumption is outweighed by the missional benefits of the proposals.

4. Lighting

The DAC will positively view applications for lighting schemes (both internal and external) which reduce the overall energy consumption through use of more energy-efficient fittings and light emitters.

Additionally, it will positively view applications where the PCC can demonstrate that it has considered the incorporation of smart controls.

The DAC will require applications for the introduction of external floodlighting to demonstrate that:

- the additional energy consumption has been minimised as far as possible;
- any additional energy consumption is outweighed by the public and missional benefits of the proposals; and
- the installation will not negatively impact local wildlife or contribute significantly to light pollution.

5. Renewable generation

The DAC will positively view applications for renewable energy generation, for example by the use of solar PV in line with revised Faculty Rules, particularly if it can be demonstrated that the PCC has already implemented improvements to the energy efficiency of the church, churchyard and associated buildings.

6. Sustainable design

The DAC will positively view applications which incorporate sustainable design (notable BREAAAM), particularly where this can be demonstrated by:

- a Statement of Needs which sets out how the proposed works will mitigate or reduce the impact on the environment; and
- an accompanying energy audit.

The DAC will set higher expectations on new build works (including extensions and detached buildings), which should meet with the highest standards of energy efficiency or give clear justification why these standards cannot be met.

7. Transport and access

The DAC will positively view applications to improve transport accessibility to the church which are supported by a travel plan, in line with diocesan guidance, that sets out ways that any new provision or enhancement for car parking is to be combined with encouraging use of environmentally sustainable transport forms, for example by providing bike racks.

8. Water management

The DAC will positively view applications to expand the capacity of rainwater disposal goods and/or the inclusion of temporary storage and/or sustainable drainage schemes.

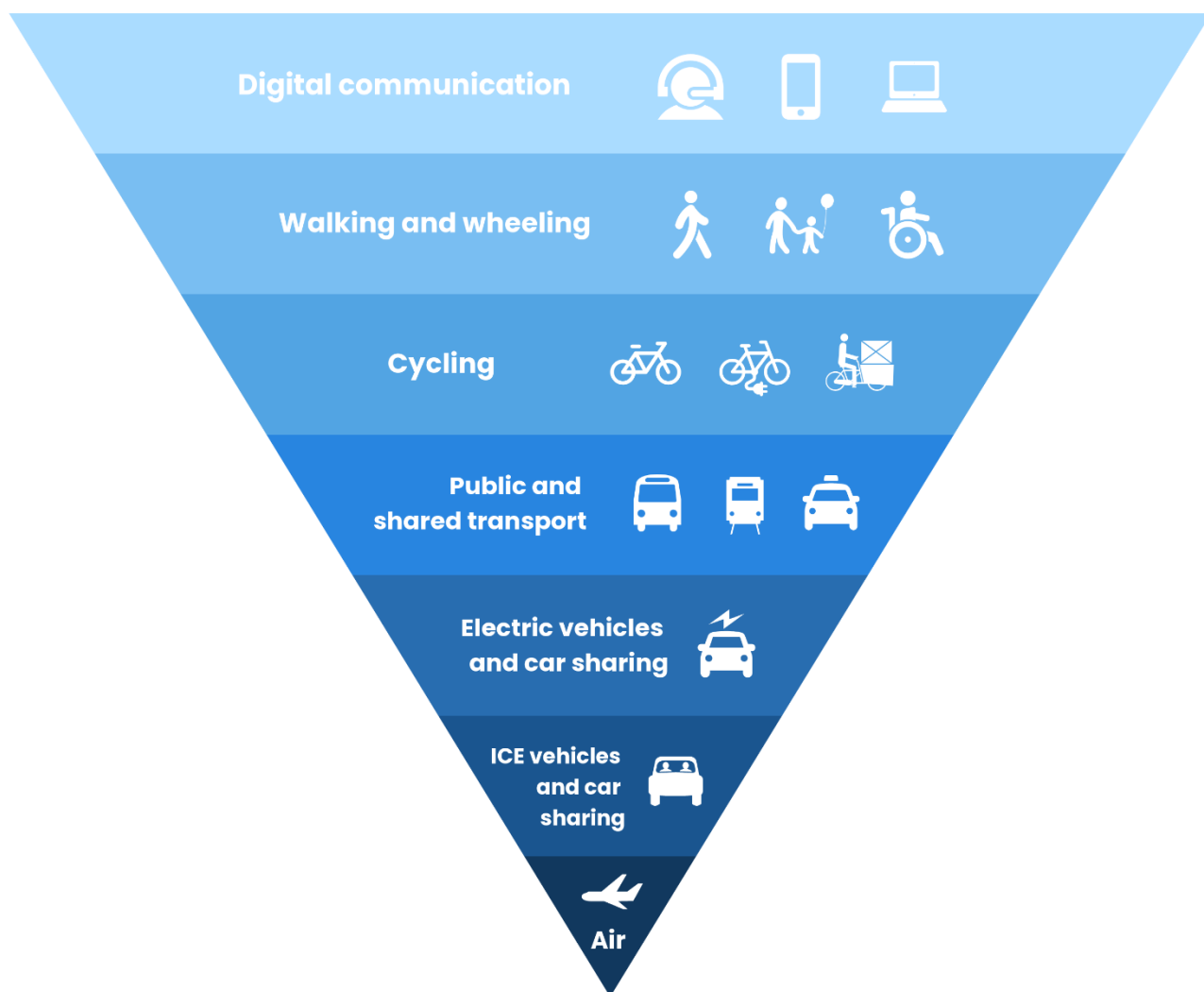
The DAC will positively view applications that use measures to minimise water waste and reduce pressure on local sewerage networks.

A. Background

This document has been prepared as part of the Diocese of Blackburn carbon net zero road map and should be read in conjunction with the diocesan expenses policy.

B. Principles

The Energy Saving's Trust have produced the following sustainable travel hierarchy that is a useful tool to help think about improving the impact of journeys. The higher up the hierarchy, the more sustainable and greener the travel option.



C. Diocesan Employees/volunteers based at Clayton House, Blackburn

The diocesan travel plan reflects the above hierarchy as follows for employees and volunteers working from Clayton House.

1. Digital Communications

All office based staff (other than those in their initial three-month probationary period) are able to work-from-home for 40% of their working week thereby reducing the need to commute to the office.

2. Walking and wheeling

It is acknowledged that Clayton House, positioned at the top of a hill, is not located in the most accessible place for those wishing to commute by walking or wheeling.

If staff wish to access food/shops at lunch time they are encouraged to walk to the local food trucks and/or nearby service station, rather than take the car.

There are a number of recreational walks that staff can take, including around the Fishmoor/Guide reservoirs.

3. Cycling

It is noted that the same issues of altitude and lack of specific safe cycling routes also make Clayton House not particularly accessible for those wishing to commute by cycling. However at least one member of staff does regularly commute over 15 miles by bike.

The increasing prevalence of e-bikes may, over time, increase the number of staff wishing to commute by bike. In this scenario, provision will be made for secure storage and recharging opportunities.

4. Public and shared transport

The nearest train stations to Clayton House are Blackburn (served by trains to/from Preston and Accrington/Burnley) or Darwen (served by trains to/from Manchester and Bolton). However, the stations are 2.4 and 3.2 miles from Clayton House.

The following buses are available from Blackburn Bus Station (5 mins walk from the railway station) that have stops on Haslingden Road.

- #481 Hourly to Bury stops at Willows pub (10 mins walk)
- #22 every 30 mins to Shadsworth stops at hospital (20 mins walk)

There are no bus services from Darwen railway station that pass close to Clayton House.

Taxis are available at Blackburn and Darwen railway stations with the fare to Clayton House costing c. £7-£10 depending on traffic.

Staff are encouraged, wherever practicable, to use public or shared transport to attend meetings and conferences that are in-person – especially events outside of the diocese.

5. Electric vehicles and car sharing

As plug-in hybrid and fully electric cars are becoming more available and popular with staff and visitors plans are in place to install four EV charging points at Clayton House by end March 2024.

Where appropriate and practicable staff are encouraged to car share eg attending the thrice-yearly staff eucharist (usually held at the cathedral or Lower Darwen St James), especially in electric vehicles.

6. Internal Combustion Engine vehicles and car sharing

The average small car emits a ton of CO₂ for every 3,500 miles and requires c. 40 trees to off-set the emissions.

It is noted that the majority of vehicles currently used by staff are petrol/diesel although this is likely to change over time as electric vehicles become more available/affordable and the ban of sales of new internal combustion engines vehicles in the UK from 2030.

Where appropriate and practicable staff are encouraged to car share eg attending the thrice-yearly staff eucharist (usually held at the cathedral or Lower Darwen St James).

Staff are to be encouraged to off-set their personal carbon footprint via a recognised carbon off-setting scheme such as Climate Stewards. Climate Stewards – For people and planet

7. Air travel

It is very rare for staff to need to travel anywhere by air. On the rare occasions that this is necessary eg visiting twin diocese, the individual will be encouraged to select an airline that offers carbon-offsetting or to consider train/ferry transport.

D. Diocesan-organised meetings, training and events

The diocesan travel plan reflects the above hierarchy as follows for meetings and events organised by diocesan officers (including Area Deans)

1. Digital Communications

The use of on-line Zoom or TEAMS meetings should be considered as the first method of convening a meeting/training/event unless there is an over-riding reason to meet in person eg for networking, break out activities, collective worship, participants don't have access to on-line technology etc.

It is noted that on-line meetings have a carbon footprint. For example a Zoom user will typically emit 150gCO₂/hour – the equivalent of a car travelling 1km. (<https://news.mit.edu/2021/how-to-reduce-environmental-impact-next-virtual-meeting-0304>)

Where the decision has been made for an in-person event the following hierarchy should be considered when selecting the meeting venue(s).

2. Walking and wheeling

It is unlikely that diocesan-organised meetings will be in walking/wheeling distance for the vast majority of attendees. However, venues should ideally be within a reasonable (maximum 10 mins) walk/wheel from public transport.

3. Cycling

It is unlikely that diocesan-organised meetings will be in cycling distance for the majority of attendees (and may not be an appropriate method of transport based on individuals' fitness), although Deanery Synod meetings might be. Venues selected should have a secure place for cycles to be stored.

4. Public and shared transport

Where practicable, venues should be selected that are easily accessible by public transport.

Churches readily accessible by train (plus maximum 10 mins walk) from mainline railway stations (with frequent services):

- Blackburn Cathedral
- Preston Minster, Preston St George, Preston St Stephen
- Lancaster St Mary, Lancaster St Thomas
- Darwen St Peter
- Carnforth Christ Church
- Chorley St George, Chorley St Laurence
- Accrington St James
- Burnley St Matthew
- Wesham Christ Church
- Poulton St Chad
- Layton St Mark
- Blackpool St John
- Lytham St John
- St Anne's St Thomas, St Anne's St Margaret of Antioch, St Anne's Parish Church
- Leyland St Ambrose

Churches readily accessible by train (plus maximum 10 mins walk) from branch-line railway stations (with less frequent services):

- Blackburn St Gabriel
- Whalley Abbey

- Clitheroe St Mary
- Immanuel, Feniscowles
- St Francis, Feniscliffe
- Mill Hill, St Aidan
- Hapton St Margaret
- Burnley St Peter
- Brierfield St Luke
- Colne Holy Trinity
- Bare St Christopher
- Adlington St Paul
- Euxton Parish

Fulwood St Cuthbert is often used as a venue for Diocesan Synod and can be accessed within 10 minute walk from stops on Preston Bus routes #23 and #44 from Preston Bus Station.

Church of the Redeemer, Blackburn is sometimes used as a venue for Diocesan Synod and can be accessed within a 15 minute (uphill) walk from stops on Blackburn Bus route #1 from Blackburn Bus Station.

5. Electric vehicles and car sharing

As plug-in hybrid and fully electric cars are becoming more available, where appropriate and practicable meeting/training/event attendees are encouraged to car share especially in electric vehicles. Car-pool schemes such as <https://www.co-wheels.org.uk/lancaster> have electric cars available.

In selecting a venue, diocesan officers are encouraged to select those that already have electric vehicle charging available on site or nearby (eg in a supermarket car park).

The installation of EV charge points is planned at Whalley Abbey during 2023.

6. Internal Combustion Engine vehicles and car sharing

A small car emits a ton of CO₂ per 3,500 miles and requires c. 40 trees to off-set the emissions.

The majority of vehicles currently used by those attending diocesan-led meetings/training/events are likely to be petrol/diesel although this is likely to change over time as electric vehicles become more available/affordable and the ban of sales of new internal combustion vehicles in the UK from 2030.

Where appropriate and practicable in meeting/training/event publicity/booking materials attendees will be encouraged to car share.

Attendees are to be encouraged to off-set their personal carbon footprint via a recognised carbon off-setting scheme such as Climate Stewards. [Climate Stewards – For people and planet](#)

7. Air travel

This is not relevant for Diocesan-led events.