

## **Diocese of London**



## **Climate Action Plans Information for PCCs and Church Councils**

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### **Summary**

Climate Action Plans are a diocesan scheme for churches to cut energy use, costs and carbon footprints, go net carbon neutral and still save money.

This scheme is a tailor-made package, to measure and reduce each church's energy consumption and carbon emissions relative to its size and activities, create a benchmark comparing on a like-for-like basis with other churches, a target and menu of actions to achieve the necessary savings. Help is given to find the best energy tariff for each church.

Then the cost of its remaining carbon emissions will be paid through EU allowances, with a view to the church becoming net carbon neutral.

No financial contribution to the Diocese is requested for participation in Climate Action Plans from any church in the Diocese of London. The financial implications of each segment of this scheme are indicated below.

The following Climate Action Plan actions are offered and recommended by the Diocese of London to each church and its PCC, GCC or DCC.

### **Measuring your church**

The Diocese will supply a one-page Survey Form, to tabulate a church's size, activities and energy use (electricity and gas, sometimes oil). For some churches, this information can be entered straight from surveys already carried out, or may be the same as provided to Charity Funding Solutions (see below). The Diocese's [Head of Environmental Challenge](#) liaises with each church with a view to filling in the remaining information.

This service is free of charge to all churches in the Diocese of London.

## Carbon footprint calculators

A church's carbon footprint is mainly comprised of the carbon emissions from regular use of gas and electricity. The Diocese helps each church taking part in Climate Action Plans by making a calculation of carbon footprint in tonnes per annum, based on energy data collected.

This service is also free of charge to all churches in the Diocese of London.

## Energy-saving Benchmarking

We already know how much energy the average London church uses, and what is its carbon footprint. But there is no such thing as an average church! We need to know how that church compares to others, and to independent standards.

A computer model has been developed for the Diocese of London by [Rickaby Thompson Associates](#). Using a simple Survey Form, we enter data from individual parishes, then adjust it according to plan area, types of use (eg including cafés and social facilities as well as worship), user numbers and hours – and the weather – all these things affect energy use and need to be taken into account. This enables us to know which churches are on target, which ahead, which have further to go towards local and national targets.

Each church's benchmark includes A to G grades for energy and carbon emissions, then a measure of its overall efficiency, after taking account of its size and activities. This leads to an estimate of its contribution so far to the Diocese's effort to save energy and carbon, enabling a percentage target to be set for that church's savings during the next time period.

Information on each church will be treated as confidential.

This service is free of charge to all churches in the Diocese of London.

## Charity Funding Solutions

Charity Funding Solutions (CFS) provides a bespoke utility price comparison service. Most churches pay too much for their energy. Utility companies are not offering their best deals to churches. CFS offers a free service to Church of England churches, comparing utilities costs and service standards, identifying erroneous charging and unfair contractual terms.

Other services are now being included such as free smart meters. Telephone and internet charges are also part of the service.

The service is free to any Diocese of London Church which takes part in Climate Action Plans.

## Good Energy

With or without advice from Charity Funding Solutions, a parish may still choose to take up the Diocese of London's existing agreement for switching electricity supplies to Good Energy, the only UK company which sells electricity from 100% renewable sources.

See downloads from the [diocesan website](#) to sign up to green energy through Good Energy, and/or call 0845 456 1640. Make sure to quote promotional code GE141.

If not buying electricity from Good Energy, and/or in respect of gas supplies, it is important to pay the carbon costs, which we have arranged through Carbon Retirement (next page).

## No-cost savings plans

To enable churches to reach their Energy-saving Benchmarking targets, and contribute to the Diocese's target savings of 20.12% by 2012, each church is given an individual bespoke savings plan – that's a menu of no-cost savings that should be possible for that individual church, based on diocese-wide experience but that church's individual circumstances.

This service is free of charge to all churches in the Diocese of London.

## Carbon Retirement

Carbon Retirement provides a way to compensate for the carbon emissions you can't avoid. This company will use your money to purchase European industrial emissions allowances (EUAs), then permanently remove them from the carbon trading system. EUAs are permits to emit carbon dioxide, so removing them from the system means industrial emissions allowed in Europe go down. The number of EUAs to purchase will depend on your church's carbon footprint, over a whole year, assuming your planned low-cost savings are made.

Bear in mind, the cheapest energy tariff won't necessarily be the greenest. We should be paying our dues to our neighbour and to the planet. So we need to pay our carbon costs.

When your carbon footprint has been estimated (after average savings during the year), the payment for carbon will be calculated. Until the end of 2011, the Diocese is keeping to the original rate of £19 per tonne of greenhouse gases (CO<sub>2</sub>e), as offered to churches at the inception of the scheme. The full cost to be paid by the Diocese to Carbon Retirement fluctuates, and is currently about £20-22 per tonne. VAT is included; about 85% of the rest goes directly to retiring carbon credits, the remaining 15% to administration and market fees.

Churches will be issued with certificates for EUAs purchased and 'retired' – proof that your church is aiming for 'net carbon neutral' status.

## Conclusion

We aim to make our churches energy efficient and net carbon neutral. This is a glittering prize!

The cost of buying EUAs through Carbon Retirement and becoming net carbon neutral can be more than paid for by energy savings, planned with the help of our Energy-saving Benchmarking system, together with reduced tariffs. The Diocese can work with churches to make this happen. Each church should end up after a year with a net reduction in spending.

If – exceptionally – the numbers do not add up for any individual church, we will say so frankly – and help work out what can still be done.

The Diocese's Climate Action Plans offer a series of actions including measuring a church's energy use, calculating its carbon footprint, benchmarking its relative efficiency, negotiating improved tariffs, 'retiring' its reduced carbon footprint through EU allowances.

These are a menu of opportunities, but they belong together. The Diocese of London advises and encourages churches and church councils to resolve to opt into the complete package of opportunities included in the Diocese's Climate Action Plans.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Head of Environmental Challenge at (020) 7932 1229, or [brian.cuthbertson@london.anglican.org](mailto:brian.cuthbertson@london.anglican.org), with any other comments or questions – or to discuss how to sign up to Climate Action Plans. The Head of Environmental Challenge will be pleased to supply any church with more information and advice, on this comprehensive package of advice and action.