

Where do we start?

Your Route to Carbon Zero by 2030

All our churches have been charged with gradually changing our use of energy to become carbon neutral by 2030. This is taken by the C of E to be measured through the energy we consume on a regular basis but it need not take direct account of embodied carbon within buildings and equipment.

At the start there may appear to be a wilderness of options, advice, huge capital sums, warnings and, sometimes, gloom. Don't be put off. It is possible to pick your way slowly forward with some easy and low-cost wins at the beginning while you work out how to tackle the trickier issues.

This set of charts is based on the experience of various churches who have made a start on this exercise. Each church and each local community is individual, of course, but many share common characteristics of building size and age, patterns of church use and resources available. The charts may help you find a way through the decisions which you are facing as well as indicating where you may want to seek professional advice.

Some points to bear in mind:

- There is no single “best” solution. The sheets are intended as a guide only. Before installing any equipment, you will need to consult with your DAC and check your plans with your architect and, maybe, an energy specialist.
- Start now to build a plan for the period between today and 2030. There will be plenty of gaps at this stage, but it will evolve as you gain more understanding, and it will help you get things like permissions and funding happening at the appropriate time. You will find a link to suggested template plans in the following sheets.
- There is a wealth of information available from independent sources and at no cost on the internet. Some links to a few of these are shown in the charts.
- Work with other churches where that is possible. It will share the load and also give you the support of other views and experience. Partners do not need to be geographically close. There are groups which collaborate entirely by email and Zoom.