

Saving Creation: Strategic Action to Combat Climate Change

Carbon Net Zero Parish Plan for St Mary's, Embsay with Eastby



Saving Creation
Diocese of Leeds

Acknowledging that we are living in a climate emergency, our church is seeking to act in love to become carbon net zero, in line with the Church of England and the Diocese of Leeds who have a target date of 2030.

Set out below are the steps that the PCC have taken from 2020-2025. We aimed to be net carbon zero by 2025. With the introduction of our new electric heating system in 2024, together with a green electricity tariff, we have reduced our carbon emissions as much as possible. We complete the 360carbon tool to calculate the carbon emissions which we can't reduce further and pay for carbon offsetting of this remaining carbon.

We believe that we are a net carbon zero church.

Items in green have been achieved from our original Carbon net zero parish plan.

	Action	Objective	Likely CO2 reduction	Cost	Responsible	Date	Comments Black – Zero group's comments; Green - achieved; Blue- suggestions from Diocese;
1	Measure and Monitor						
1.1	Enter energy data to EFT	Calculate carbon emissions	Informs Action	Volunteer Time	Church Treasurer	Annual (March – July)	EFT = Energy Footprinting Tool on Online Parish Returns
1.2	Add EFT carbon emissions report to annual reports	Accountability on carbon emissions	Influences Change	Volunteer Time	PCC Secretary/ Treasurer	Annually April	2021 data submitted in April 2022 and mentioned in APCM report. Carbon360 from Climate Stewards tool used in detail to determine carbon offsetting from 2025
1.3	Establish baseline	Calculate carbon emissions	Informs Action	Volunteer Time	Treasurer/ EWE Zero group	Q1-Q2 2022	Limited data for 2020. Full report of 2021 data submitted in April 2022

2	Plan and Prepare						
2.1	Use the 'Practical Path to Net Zero: A checklist for your church'	Assess what actions to take	Informs Action	Volunteer Time	Church Warden/ Fabric Group to assess	Q2-Q3 2022	What are we already doing; what are we already planning to do, what else do we want to do? Practical Path to Net Zero: A checklist for your church www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/PP2NZC_SelfGuidedChecklist_onscreen_version.pdf
2.2	Hold a Climate Sunday	Communicate the reasons for action to the congregation	Influences Change	Clergy Time/ Volunteer Time	Vicar/ Eco Group	Q3 2021	Our Climate Sunday service (27 June 2021) was attended by invited members of our local parish council and was part of our awareness-raising for the TCNCC project. <i>Climate Sunday</i> www.climatesunday.org/ Other Worship resources www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/worship-teaching
2.3	Appoint a Parish Environment Officer	Someone to direct and monitor	Equips for change	Volunteer Time	PCC	Q3 2020	Diana Linford appointed September 2020.
3	Essential Energy Actions						
3.1	Investigate a renewable electricity tariff	Cut emissions from electricity	All electric emissions	Neutral	Church Treasurer		We are currently buying electricity and gas from the Green Journey. The Green Journey scheme offers a 100% renewable electric tariff especially negotiated with SSE www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/green-journey
3.2	Investigate renewable energy generation system	Find the best options for our church	Informs action	Volunteer time Architect's costs	EWE Zero Group + PCC	Q4 2021 + end Q2 2022 with reviews	Feasibility study received Q4 2021. Formulate plan by summer 2022 on way forward for Solar PV. Research other churches which have already installed PV systems. NB: as a result of this research, we will not take this forward until south roof replace.
3.3	Install renewable energy generation system	Cut carbon emission from electricity and provide 'green' energy to grid	All electric emission	See Locogen report and Eft application	Church warden + PCC	Dependent on decision on roof restoration	Dependent on decision on roof restoration. Substantial grant funding or fundraising needed. Revisit 2027-30?

3.4	Investigate renewable heating system	Find the best options for our church	Informs change	Volunteer Time Architect's costs	EWE Zero Group + PCC	Q4 2021 + end Q2 2022 with reviews 2023 and 2025	Feasibility study from Locogen received Q4 2021. Formulate plan by spring 2023, by reviewing way forward for heating options (additional heating and possible replacement for the boiler if considered necessary after installation of electric heating). Visit/ research other churches with such systems. PCC to discuss June 2022 Small scale trial autumn 2022 Seek advice from the DAC and explore options using the C of E guidance and webinars www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/webinars-getting-net-zero-carbon
3.5	Install a renewable heating system	Cut carbon emission from heating	Potentially all heating emissions	Potentially High – see Locogen report	Church Warden + PCC	Phase 1 by Q4 2024 Phase 2 by Q4 2025	Implement plan for installing additional probably localised electric heating, run on renewable electricity, with 2 target dates: i) Install additional heating by Q4 2024; monitor effectiveness ii) Turn off gas boiler by Q4 2025 These targets were achieved
4	Essential Travel Actions						
4.1	Hold a walk to Church Sunday (see note)	Raise awareness of travel emission with congregation	Personal emissions for congregation	Neutral	Vicar + PCC	2021 Q3 2022	'Travel' one of our Eco Themes in 2021. Possibly called 'Leave the car at home Sunday' as this would include cycling, and car sharing where safe for those for whom there is no other option. Could link with suggested 'Forest Church' service proposed by the Eco Group.
4.2	Schedule PCC + other meetings in convenient locations or online	Cut travel miles	0.22Kg CO2 per mile	Saving on petrol/diesel	PCC Secretary	2021 onwards	Consider using places such as public houses which are already being heated. Or hold online. Many church meetings held online during 2020 and 2021. Continue with online streaming for services as these are accessed by those unable to attend in person
4.3	Investigate EV chargepoints	Raise awareness of issue, public amenity			Zero group/ fundraising group	Q3 2022 (and ongoing)	Investigate electric vehicle chargepoints – cost, type, etc. Investigate funding (esp with parish council) Mentioned to Parish Council May 2022. St Mary's Zero Funding Group investigating appropriate funding sources.

							Meeting held with local authority. NB: On hold until we know North Yorkshire Councils plans for EV charging in Embsay with Eastby
5	Carbon Offsetting						
5.1	Investigate carbon offset gas tariff	Offset for heating emissions	Offset all gas emission	£20 per tonne CO2	Church Treasurer +PCC	By Q1 2023	PCC to discuss whether and when to start paying for our carbon offsetting (following presentation of carbon reduction plan) in June 2022 The Green Journey scheme offers a carbon offset gas tariff with Crown www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/green-journey
5.2	Budget for carbon offsetting	Pay the full price of energy used by the church	Offset all remaining emissions	£20 per tonne CO2	Church Treasurer	By Q1 2026	Links with Phase 1 of reviewing heating. Plan to install additional electric heating by Q4 2024. Carbon offsetting paid for from 2025 for the carbon we can't further reduce, based on the calculations from the 360carbon tool. Payment via Climate Stewards. Climate Stewards is a Christian carbon offsetting charity www.climatestewards.org/
6	Stepping Out and Up						
6.1	Recognise or declare by using the Climate Emergency Toolkit or other means	Raise public awareness of being an active and relevant church	Influences change in the community	Volunteer Time	EWE Zero Group and Parish Environment Officer	Throughout 2022 & continuing	Lots of dissemination has been done about our net carbon zero work: Presentation to PCC about Feasibility Study 21 Jan 2022. Webinar for other churches 25 Jan 2022 (TCNCC). Presentation to congregation 27 Feb 2022. Updated, comprehensive display + copies of the feasibility study in church Feb 2022. Presentation to E with E Parish Council May 2022 The Climate Emergency Toolkit for churches www.climateemergencytoolkit.com/
6.2	Hold a Climate Sunday	Communicate the reasons for action to	Influences Change	Clergy Time	Vicar		See Climate Sunday Service info above: EwE Climate Sunday service (27 June 2021) attended by local community.

		the congregation					A second Climate Sunday service linked with the TCNCC project: Sun 8 May 2022, with Bishop Helen-Ann. Consider holding another Climate Sunday service at St Mary's (but see 'Leave the car at home/ Forest Service plan above) <i>Climate Sunday</i> www.climatesunday.org/ Other Worship resources www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/worship-teaching
6.3	Write to local press with carbon reduction plans	Raise public awareness	Influences change in the community	Volunteer Time	PCC Secretary/ Parish Environment Officer	2022	Press releases and social media posts have included many references to our work in reducing our carbon footprint.
6.4	Register with the Eco Church Award scheme	Celebrate our eco success	Encourages change	Volunteer Time	Parish Environment Officer/ Eco Group	2022-23 and ongoing	Silver Eco Church Award gained November 2020. Gold Eco Church Award gained May 2023. We continue to encourage other churches to reduce their carbon emissions and to take part in the Eco Church scheme.
6.5	Raise public awareness of being an active and relevant church	Raise public awareness	Informs + influences change in the community	Volunteer time	EWE Zero group	2022 and ongoing	Stall at Village Fete (16 July 2022) Presentation/ exhibition/ event for local community in the Village Institute (summer 2022). Refreshments already bought by TCNCC + booklets available. Press release planned to publicise getting to net carbon zero, spring 2026

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