



Diocesan Board of Education Environmental Policy

Approved by the Diocesan Board of Education	November 2021
Review date	November 2024

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1. Background

Christians recognise that all life exists in an intimate, mutually supporting community, sustained by and reflecting God's love¹ and Anglicans affirm their responsibility 'to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth'².

Church of England schools are hubs for the community, places of creativity and provide a foundation for authentic social, cultural and spiritual action. Good education plants seeds that can inspire and bear fruit for generations to come.

In February 2020, the Church of England General Synod passed a motion to achieve Net Zero carbon emissions by 2030. Diocesan Synod passed a motion to action this in June 2021.

The [Diocesan Environmental Policy](#) sets out how care for God's creation is a fundamental part of the Diocesan Growing in God vision.

The Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) is a statutory committee of the Diocesan Board of Finance with particular functions and responsibilities for church schools, RE and Collective Worship and education in the diocese more widely:

- to develop and support highly effective church schools and Headteachers
- to equip and resource church schools to deliver high quality RE and Collective Worship
- to support schools, governors and clergy in ensuring the Christian distinctiveness of church schools
- to develop and strengthen effective links between churches and schools which enable faith to grow and to contribute to the Diocesan Growing in God strategy
- the DBE has no funding to implement this policy, other than the School Condition Allocation grant funding for Voluntary Aided schools.

2. Environmental Vision

The environmental vision of the Diocesan Board of Education is that the DBE and Church of England schools will **celebrate** God as Creator, and fully **understand** the impact of their work upon the environment. Church of England schools will become truly **sustainable** places of learning which create better outcomes for all children and young people, conserve the environment and enable the planet to flourish for future generations. The DBE will encourage collaboration amongst stakeholders to achieve this, and Church of England schools will **achieve** net zero carbon emissions by 2030³.

¹ Colossians 1:17

² The Fifth Mark of Mission of the Anglican Communion: <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/identity/marks-of-mission.aspx>

³ Scope 1 & 2 emissions at Voluntary Aided & Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust schools, as set out in the General Synod Net Zero 2030 target

3. Strategic Objectives

Within the DBE's control:

- we will understand the environmental impact of DBE Members' and Officers' work (e.g. travel, paper, office, emails, waste) and set goals to reduce adverse impact
- our Diocesan Asset Management Plan will ensure that the Net Zero 2030 target (together with conservation and improvement of the environment more generally) are appropriately prioritised in the allocation of School Condition Allocation grant capital funding from the Education Skills & Funding Agency at Voluntary Aided schools
- we will keep abreast of funding opportunities and promote these to schools (e.g. Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme)
- we will maintain an Action Plan (Appendix 2) with timescales and periodically review this
- we undertake to celebrate success and learn from experience.

Within the DBE's influence:

- we will promote understanding and teaching of best environmental practice at all Church of England schools (e.g. meetings of school leaders, weblinks and distribution of external resources)
- we will encourage all Church of England schools to commission and implement a Heat Decarbonisation Plan
- we will encourage governing bodies and academy trust boards to make meaningful commitments to reduce their carbon emissions and other environmental impacts
- we will encourage the Diocesan MAT to develop its own environmental policy which aligns with this one
- we will collaborate with the Local Authority to ensure that Voluntary Controlled schools are supported, and learn from the Local Authority's experience with these and community schools
- with the support of charities and other organisations, we will encourage behavioural change at all Church of England schools to reduce energy consumption, reduce waste, and encourage biodiversity.

Daniel Jones
Buildings Officer
November 2021

Further information and resources

Church of England

- Church of England Net Zero 2030 motion
<https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/news-and-statements/general-synod-sets-2030-net-zero-carbon-target>
- Net Zero Church Schools
<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/net-zero-schools>
- Energy Footprint Tool (link to follow when launched)

National & Local Government

- School Display Energy Certificate register
<https://find-energy-certificate.digital.communities.gov.uk/find-a-non-domestic-certificate/search-by-postcode>
- Salix (including Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme)
https://www.salixfinance.co.uk/Salix_Funding
- Good Estate Management for Schools guidance
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/good-estate-management-for-schools>
- Suffolk - Creating the Greenest County
<https://www.greensuffolk.org/schools/>

Charities

- Lets Go Zero pledge and resources, Ashden
<https://letsgozero.org/>
- Energy Sparks – energy consumption dashboard and analysis
<https://energysparks.uk/>
- Eco-Schools
<https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/>

Education Net Zero 2030 Action Plan

Scope: **Scope 1 & Scope 2 emissions**

Understand	
1	Obtain Display Energy Certificates (DECs) for all VA & Diocesan MAT schools
2	Prepare database of energy related fabric issues with analysis
3	Obtain current consumption data for all schools
4	Calculate Carbon Footprint
5	Check smart metering provision
6	Establish any training requirements for Diocesan Officers
7	Consult with SCC Officers engaged with similar ambitions
8	Consult with Church of England Education Office (CEEO) and colleagues around the country
9	Keep abreast of DfE, BEIS & Salix policy and opportunities
10	Explore all funding opportunities
11	Obtain funding for professional consultancy to identify improvement measures
12	Develop full understanding of "green tariffs"
13	Identify schools with enthusiasm and expertise as champions
Do	
14	Assess our key decisions to ensure that they align with our net zero target
15	Brief all building consultants on Diocesan Net Zero target
16	Ensure that all VA SCA projects consider CO2 reduction opportunities
17	Consider adapting VA SCA project prioritisation criteria to projects that reduce direct emissions
18	Seek funding for changing to low carbon heating systems
19	Consider emission reduction opportunities in MAT CIF bids

20	Agree energy tariff strategy for MAT
21	Identify sources of advice for schools on building management, behavioural change and curricular opportunities for children
22	Promote advisory/commitment programme to schools and encourage take-up
23	Minimise our need to travel for business through use of digital technologies and flexible working practices (reduce unnecessary travel to work, reducing energy costs and waste levels in the office)
Influence	
24	Publicise Diocesan Action Plan to schools
25	Publicise CO2 saving projects
26	Raise awareness amongst staff of vehicle emissions and opportunities
27	Identify strategy to engage with VC and non-Diocesan MAT academies
28	Promote awareness of "green tariffs" for energy and Parish Buying opportunity
Review	
29	Establish a reporting structure
30	Embed monitoring and verification programmes for significant capital projects so that lessons are learnt
31	Investigate peer review opportunities (intra-office and/or intra-Diocese)