

Appendix 6: Consent & Permissions

Any installation of renewable technologies and any alterations to church buildings will require the necessary statutory permissions and consents from the local authority and a faculty from the diocese.

Although planning policies and guidance vary according to the local authority, planning permission is invariably required for external works to historic buildings. This would include the addition of Photovoltaic Panels to roofs, External Solid Wall Insulation, and any other externally visible changes to a building.

It is worth consulting the area's 'Local Plan', as many of these contain policies relating to renewables. The Melton Local Plan includes a section outlining policies relating to Climate Change mitigation and renewable energy generation⁴.

Many churches have successfully obtained planning permission for PV systems; however it should be noted that permissions are more freely granted in situations where PV arrays are not visible from ground level, e.g. for high roofs with a shallow pitch. More information about planning permission is available via the UK planning portal website.

Anglican churches are exempt from Listed Building and Conservation Area consents under the Ecclesiastical Exemption Order 2010. However, this exemption requires that equivalent consents are obtained via the Church of England's own mechanism for regulating changes to its buildings and contents, known as Faculty Jurisdiction. The relevant Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) can advise on this process. More information can be found through the Church of England Website (see appendix 6).

Dependent upon the size of the PV system, permission may have to be obtained from the District Network Operator (DNO) in order for the system to be connected to the National Grid. Your installer should be able to advise on this and complete the application process on your behalf.

Works will also require Building Regulations Approval from a building control body⁵, in particular for any structural alterations and for significant solar installations on roofs.

⁴ See Melton Local Plan Section 7.16, accessible via www.meltonplan.co.uk

⁵ Building Regulations approval can be obtained either via the local authority or a private approved inspector