

## **SOLAR PROGRAMMES**

ODBE is happy, on behalf of land trustees, to consider the addition of solar panels to our buildings. We are supportive of schools buying their panels outright and of government-managed, interest free loan schemes such as Salix.

However, we are cautious of the many commercial schemes in operation, particularly those requiring trustees to sign a power purchase agreement. If your site is owned by local trustees, they will need to give their consent and we are happy to advise them if that would be helpful. Any prospective lease should be sent to the diocese along with the above information. Please do not ask for an immediate response as the team will need time to take professional advice.

Where schools are purchasing solar panels outright or as part of a government scheme, we expect them to:

- Have undertaken due diligence and provide evidence that the supplier we are planning to use provides the best value for the school. This should include considering at least three options.
- To have an independent structural survey to confirm that your roof can take the weight of the panels (independent of the company you plan to work with)
- If you are a school within a MAT, your MAT should have indicated they are happy for you to undertake this work, and that they are happy to maintain the solar panels over their life.