

Tips shared in the webinar 'Beating the rising costs - How can my church save energy and money?'

Utility Bills

A few money saving tips related to your bills

- Check on a winter energy bill that you are not paying more than 5% VAT
- Check you are not paying the Climate Change Levy (CCL) on your bills
- Check any Feed in Tariff (FiT) charge on your bills is correct
- A dual rate electricity tariff can be an advantage for churches, but check your meter shows correct time and date
- Water companies often provide free water saving gadgets which reduce waste and therefore bills.

Reducing energy use

Measure

- Completing the CofE [Energy Footprint Tool](#) helps give an idea of where your church footprint falls against other similar churches
- Smart meters can provide detailed use information to analyse.

Controls

- Boiler controls – frost setting just above 0°C. If a dual burner, the high flame lower temperature than low flame.
- Check your thermostat settings suit your needs and timings suit your current services times (make a note to amend them when the clocks change!)
- Add timers to heaters / lighting so they can't be left on by mistake
- Floodlighting - consider reduced hours
- Do you need the whole church lit to the same level inside?

Comfort

- Cushions on seats
- Breathable carpet matting on floor
- Encourage people to sit away from walls and other drafts

Energy Efficiency

Building maintenance can save energy wastage

See the CofE Environment Programme [Net Zero Webinars](#), particularly [housekeeping and quick wins](#)

- Gently dust/vacuum fan convector heater fins and grills on backs of fridges to increase efficiency

- Bleed radiators if cold at the top, have sludge flushed out if cold at the bottom
- Clear gutters to prevent damp problems (damp = cold!)
- Drafts (fix broken windows, consider fridge magnets over large keyholes, curtains across doors)
- Mend leaks to prevent damp problems (damp = cold!)
- Insulate heating pipes and water tanks

NB some actions in these last 3 points may require permissions, so check with your archdeacon or the DAC first.

LED Lighting

- Quick win → One of the first changes to look at
- 80% energy savings → Quick payback time, saving money for years to come
- Start with simple bulb to led lamp switches
 - More complicated lighting may require outside help
- Dive Deeper: See CofE [lighting webinar](#).

Energy Efficient Appliances

- Energy labels have changed → look for a rating of C or higher for most appliances
 - Ovens, tumble dryers, air conditioners, space and water heaters have not been updated so you're still looking for A+ and above for those
- Make a plan to budget for energy efficient appliances when your current appliances fail
- Save money and energy in the long run

Energy Contracts

- Switching to renewable energy is the aim but currently switching tariffs is not advised, unless your contract is ending soon, due to energy companies and prices still being unsettled.

Energy Audit Programme

- See this [webpage](#) with further information and an expression of interest form.

Actions to take

Quick	Medium	Longer term

Further information sources

For churches:

- [C of E Environment Programme](#), searchable [Case Studies](#), [guidance](#), Net Zero [Webinars](#) (including environmental fundraising) and [online-giving information](#).
- [Housekeeping and Quick Wins webinar](#)
- [LED lighting webinar](#)
- A Rocha UK [Eco Church resources](#)
- [Bats in Churches](#) project help & advice
- Diocese of Oxford [Energy Audit Programme](#)
- Coming in the autumn... Diocese of Oxford Toolkit for DIY audits

For anyone struggling with energy bills in your congregations:

- [Energy Savings Trust](#)
- [Better Health Better Homes](#) (definitely Oxfordshire and possibly elsewhere)