

DAC Toolkit

Sustainable Heating in your Parish



We are really pleased at how many PCCs are taking seriously the climate crisis and the desire to move away from fossil fuels.

The toolkit is intended to be a brief document to guide PCCs through the process of seeking the best sustainable heating system for a church building and/or hall. It will suggest a process for you to follow, pointing you to background reading and questions you can ask yourself before approaching contractors or the DAC. Following this process will improve your chances of finding an appropriate solution that keeps you comfortable while helping the environment.

First Step: Build Your Team

Working out the most appropriate heating system involves many factors and skill sets. It isn't a one-person task and you need a good team who can work together. This might include-

- At least one of the churchwardens with responsibility for the building
- PCC treasurer or someone else with financial skills
- Any church members – or contacts in the local community - with technical expertise in areas such as heating, other building services, engineering or quantity surveying
- Representatives of the main users of the building, other than the PCC

In addition, you will need to refer to your inspecting architect at appropriate points in the process, bearing in mind they are likely to charge for their time.

Before You Go Further: Read Existing Guidance

A lot of guidance is already available on the internet but we suggest starting with these before you ask us any detailed questions:

- [Church of England – Environment section](#) including detailed guidance on heating systems.
- [Diocesan website – Sustainability pages](#) including our sustainability policies, case studies and information about project finance.
- [Diocesan website – Environment and Buildings](#) including information about the Green Journey Scheme, energy efficiency measures, and links to the Energy Footprinting Tool and Practical Path to Net Zero.

Do note that all of the above sites are under constant developments as new material is added.



Think About Your Situation and Needs: Heating Checklist

We have a checklist, reproduced as an appendix to this document or downloadable here. If you wish to speak with one of the DAC's sustainability advisers (see below), you will first need to complete this document. It's a long list to cover all possibilities, so not all sections may be relevant to your circumstances, but the exercise will help everyone involved understand your needs.

Look In Detail At Your Building: Energy Audit

Before anyone can offer appropriate advice on a solution, they will need to know how much energy is being used, where and when. The Diocese has a partnership with Green Energy Consulting. This includes a [‘complimentary’ energy audit](#), i.e. you don’t pay for the audit but they will expect you to consider them when looking for a consultant for paid work. See the [Green Journey](#) page on our website which includes a video explaining the service.

If your building is simple in nature and not heavily used, it may be sufficient to use the [‘Practical Path to Net Zero Checklist’](#) to conduct your own energy audit.

Seek Expert Advice: Consultants and DAC Advisers

You may be ready at this stage to ask a consultant to carry out an options appraisal, which will set out different systems that may or may not work for your church. Please contact the DAC for a list of firms offering these services. You can use your completed checklist (linked above) to help explain to them what your needs are.

If you are still feeling uncertain and need more advice, there are various Environmental Champions across the diocese who you can chat with for simple advice. The Diocesan Environmental Adviser can put you in touch with your area Champion.

Alternatively, you can contact the DAC team and we can put you on our list to receive advice from one of our professional qualified sustainability advisers. Please note that our advisers provide a voluntary service to us alongside their usual work and are in great demand: this is why we ask you to complete a checklist before we can refer you to them. Our advisers will offer you some guidance and may be able to quickly rule out certain options as impractical rather than waste time on exploring them in detail. They can give you helpful tips for approaching consultants who will design you a new system.

The Full Details: Design and Quotations

Once you have taken advice from an expert and concluded what the best system is for you, you will need to get a detailed design drawn up, either by the consultant or by your inspecting architect/surveyor. The DAC adviser cannot do this for you, as they are only able to offer advice. You can then go out to tender, and the DAC staff (or your designer) can suggest companies to quote for the work. If the building is listed, the VAT element of the cost can be reclaimed on completion under the [LPW Scheme](#).

The Final Stage: Permissions

Simply changing from a gas or oil boiler to a non-fossil-fuel one (biomass or renewable electricity) or installing under-pew heaters only needs List B permission from the Archdeacon in most instances. But changing to a completely different system (e.g. underfloor heating and/or air source heat pumps) will still need a faculty, as will a replacement gas or oil boiler (if the options appraisal shows that there isn't a viable non-fossil fuel alternative).

Questions

If you have any further questions after following the links in this document, please contact a member of the [DAC team](#).



For more resources, support and help, please visit
www.leeds.anglican.org/dac

For support with anything in this document, please email
communications@leeds.anglican.org

or

dac@leeds.anglican.org