

# Summary of Diocese of Guildford Net Zero Carbon Strategy

## 1. Why are we doing this?

There are all sorts of very good secular reasons for the Net Zero Carbon (NZC) agenda which are well-rehearsed and widely supported. The foundation of *our* 'Why', however, is deeply theological and rooted in our faith. At the heart of Christian discipleship is relationship: with God; with each other; and with creation. Caring for creation honours each of these relationships. First, it honours the God who loved creation into being and made human beings in his own image to care for it. Secondly, it honours other people - for it is a common home and our abuse of creation is increasingly causing devastation in other people's experience of it. Thirdly, it honours the gift itself - which Scripture reminds us reflects God's handiwork and which we wish pass to on to our children's children.

As we implement our Diocesan NZC Strategy, it will make significant contributions to our wider vision of a Transforming Church, Transforming Lives. Our NZC Strategy will contribute to our aspirations for:

- **Growing Disciples:** engaging with NZC can enable us to deepen our understanding of how we encounter God in worship, prayer and through the outworking of our everyday faith. Many of our parishes are also finding it also i) increases the number of people involved in their core leadership as it brings into play passions and skills not previously mobilised; ii) increases how they can reach out through mission activities to people currently outside of their church and present the gospel in a way that is highly relevant to key issues faced by our world today.
- **Growing Diversity:** Climate change and the journey towards NZC is particularly important for younger people. By engaging in NZC we are better able to engage with, and actively involve, young people from our surrounding communities and our Church of England schools.
- **Growing Community:** Our NZC strategy enables us to build on the community partnerships of our parishes, chaplaincies and schools, many of which were developed throughout the pandemic.

## 2. National and Diocesan commitments

### The National Church of England NZC commitment

General Synod voted in February 2020 for the whole of the Church of England to achieve Net Zero Carbon (NZC) by 2030. The vote recognised that the global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation and a fundamental injustice.

The Synod asked for a plan to be made, setting out how to get to Net Zero Carbon. That plan of action, called the Route map, was approved by General Synod in July 2022. The Route map acknowledged that *‘the 2030 target is hugely ambitious, but the process is as important as the target. Every month or year that we delay our progress towards NZC will lead to suffering and even death for our human neighbours and the rest of God’s creation.’*

### The Diocese of Guildford’s NZC commitments

In its meeting on 14 November 2020, the Guildford Diocesan Synod agreed to create an action plan for NZC by 2023. In 2022, the diocese employed a consultant to create a NZC strategy and plan to achieve NZC by 2030 which was then agreed by Bishop’s Council on 17 October 2022.

The Diocese’s strategy “Transforming Church, Transforming Lives” was refreshed and approved by Synod in March 2022 and included NZC as a specific strategic area of work.

## 3. Outline of the approved Diocesan NZC Strategy

The Strategy can be summarized at a high level as follows:

- By 2030: Address ‘scope 1 and 2’ emissions:
  - Energy use of our buildings - churches, halls, cathedrals, schools, offices
  - Work-related travel
- After 2030
  - Purchasing, waste, water, contractors, IT, air-conditioning gases.

Not in scope

- Commuting, congregational travel, staff and clergy family lifestyles, church members’ emissions, and school buildings over which the Church has little influence.

What is meant by ‘Net Zero Carbon’ emissions is described below



### Workstreams

The strategy set out various foci of work which are now being referred to as ‘workstreams’:

#### Schools Workstream

Following the completion in mid-2022 of 41 Estate Decarbonisation Plans with a grant from the Government Low Carbon Skills Fund, the DBE applied for funding under the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) for NZC-related work with 41 Voluntary Aided (VA) schools. The DBE was awarded £3.7m of PSDS funding and has identified 21 schools where ageing boilers will be replaced by air-source heat pumps.

The work included in the strategy for this workstream can be summarised as:

- Implement the PSDS-funded work and review the impact of these projects.
- Consider whether to seek additional funding to deliver further work to reduce the carbon footprint of VA schools
- Explore funding options for all Multi-Academy Trusts including The Good Shepherd Trust.

### **Vicarages and DBF property Workstream**

Up to the end of 2025

- Reduce the overall footprint of DBF property portfolio by disposing of surplus property;
- Optimise the thermal efficiency of our current properties – glazing & insulation;
- Educate occupiers to be environmentally aware and expect that LED lighting, Smart technology (to control boilers i.e. Nest), and green energy (where it is within the price cap) will be adopted by default;
- New build vicarages will be built to be as close to NZC as practicably possible;
- Use the EPC and Quinquennial Projects to help identify suitable ‘pilot’ properties where solar panels and air source heat pumps could be installed.

From 2026

- Install commercially viable low-carbon heating technologies in vicarages and the remaining investment properties.

### **Parishes (Church buildings and halls)**

The approach involves the diocese supporting parishes in areas such as:

- Advising on value for money and lowest cost solutions with maximum impact
- Finding sources of funding
- Expertise & sharing good practice
- Procurement
- Project and contract management
- Monitor and Evaluation of project impact
- Communications and training.

## **Guildford Cathedral**

The approach involves supporting the Cathedral in:

- Procuring an energy consultancy to develop a site-wide energy masterplan
- Commissioning such a plan and delivering the plan.

The Cathedral site is sufficiently large and varied to consider an NZC Strategy on its own – or with integration with a potential neighbour's / University of Surrey energy system.

## **Church House Guildford Office**

The approach involves work to reduce emissions from work-related travel and ensuring planning for the move of CHG to the Cathedral site appropriately takes into account NZC thinking.

### **The Energy Footprint Tool (EFT)**

Over the life of the NZC strategy implementation, the Energy Footprint Tool (part of the national Parish Returns platform) will be the principal means for measuring the baseline emissions and then our progress towards the 2030 target of Net Zero Carbon. The EFT collects emission data from across all the main carbon emitters in our diocese, namely:

- Our Church of England Schools
- Our Parishes (their buildings)
- The Cathedral
- Vicarages and other DBF residential properties
- The CHG office and our DBF work related travel

## **Human resources**

The approved strategy set out the following additional staffing that would be required to implement the required work:

- Net Zero Programme Manager (0.5 FTE)
- 2x Net Zero Project Managers (2x 1 FTE), one for Schools, one for Parishes & DBF property
- Existing Volunteer Support – Diocese Environmental Officer (DEO)
- Existing Departments' management oversight