



Diocese of Bristol Synod March 2024 Responses to Table Questions following Net Zero Presentation

1. Structured plan – do we have % progress against key deliverables?

We have a structured project plan which is reviewed and progress reported against defined measures on a quarterly basis as part of the TCT programme boards.

We also have a modelled emissions trajectory detailing baseline emissions, all planned actions and targets and the impact on the emissions trajectory till 2030. These modelled emissions savings will be updated with greater details as and when audits are completed and additional programmes of works to achieve reductions are planned into the programme.

2. Update on timing of achieving end goal – will we achieve CNZ by our stated goal of 2030?

We think it is theoretically possible based on the data we have but requires a lot of fundraising at parish level. If we can decarbonise 30 churches a year we will meet our target! As we do not have control over these projects we can support and enable the works but can not force parishes to implement changes.

3. Will the Diocese be stuck with out-of-date tech, or are we future proofing?

We are always reviewing and adapting what is the right solutions for both churches and clergy homes.

4. When will you do specific clergy housing – what is the lead time after an energy audit before work is undertaken, and comms about that to clergy needs to be improved

The audits for clergy homes are not being used in the same way as churches. Audits for clergy homes are to provide example information from which we have extrapolated to the rest of the portfolio. The clergy homes work will be rolled out measure by measure rather than home by home, as to do all measures simultaneously would result in significant disruption that would involve relocating clergy and families for the duration which would be detrimental to wellbeing and ministry So for example a tender will be run for all cavity wall insulation across the homes. These means we can get a better price and also spread the benefits quickly across lots of clergy homes in a more equitable way.

5. DSS travel 1% - but what about clergy and volunteers?

We would love to include this, but we do not have access to any data from clergy on their business travel journeys so cannot estimate emissions for them unfortunately. We include all business travel for which we can obtain data. We would like to obtain this data in future but will require clergy to submit expense claims to the Parish and for them to submit those to us



6. Will the Diocese introduce a Salary sacrifice scheme for leasing an electric car?

As clergy are not employees of the diocese its not clear if this would be possible.

7. Each parish is entitled to claim a £10k grant to carbon reduction works. I've got 6 parishes, most have had their audit and some are coming up with very few measures needed (change a couple of light bulbs, buy a more modern type of panel heater...) and it doesn't feel like these will need the whole £10k, but others may well need more. So, could we redistribute that within our benefice, receiving £60k overall across 6 churches?

This question will be raised to the programme board. There are a number of ways unneeded funding could be redistributed. These will be analysed and pros and cons for each approach presented to the programme board for a decision.

8. Boilers are often replaced in an emergency while replacing the heating is a longer and costlier process and a big project. Is there a way to support churches to plan ahead?

We would like to do a campaign on getting a heating resilience plan in place. The Environment team will talk with the church buildings team to assist. In the mean time there are free temporary heaters available to borrow by emailing environment@bristoldioocese.org

9. Eco champs are great but volunteers and wont be able to understand all the jargon or be able to make lunchtime meetings or train for carbon literacy on a weekday morning. Please vary things

Noted. We will try to arrange some evening slots for the carbon literacy and Eco champ meetings.

10. Swindon Deanery is having an eco meeting on Monday 25th march.

The environment team were not aware of this. Thanks for sharing. If your parishes have an Eco Champion do let them know they can publicise their events via us in future.

11. Its happening too slowly, we have the funding, we'd declared a climate emergency we can lead the way before 2030.

We believe Bristol is setting the pace across the CofE and we have plans in place to achieve our goal.

12. That are the 3 places that have received the grant so far?

St Mary Marshfield, St Michael Winterbourne and St John Colerne

13. Parishes have to be proactive, support is needed what does it feel like on the ground to apply for a grant?

Answered below in combination with a similar question.

14. The following four bullet points were noted:

- Partnerships for bulk buying
- For parishes to support each other



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- For showcasing net zero projects to potential parish work
- Parish buying unhelpful particularly for the energy basket

Work is underway on the first three points.

The fourth point is heartily agreed with by the Env team. We have been talking at length about this with the National team as have other Diocese'. Changes are underway in Parish Buying albeit slower than we would have liked.

15. Energy audit done and provides different specialist advice to other specialists therefore its up to the parishes to analyse what is needed.

There is often more than one route to decarbonising the building and the route to choose depends on how you intend to use the building now and in the future. Ask for a meeting to with Amy and Kit to discuss how to proceed.

16. What does the energy audit – results – recommendations – apply for grant – grant approval system – get grant – get work done actually look like?

What is the flow?

What will it feel like for parishes in the system

This is the process flow:



17. Given the backlog for energy audits what will happen to the opportunity for the 10k grant will it disappear?

The grant has been agreed by Synod and will not disappear. The first two years of funding for Net Zero works including the 10k grant, was agreed in March 2023 and later years will need to be again agreed by Synod. There are many parishes still to submit their application



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for an audit, so we are working hard to encourage these parishes, therefore we are not currently inundated with 10k requests but this will gather pace.

18. Where are the bottle necks? Can they be alleviated by working with others?

There has been a delay in getting some reports out to Churches due to one of the survey team having a serious medical emergency before Christmas. They have worked hard to alleviate the backlog since. It is not advised to find alternative providers as Inspired Efficiency are industry leaders with extensive experience of Churches and technologies and the faculty process. Other providers would give a less informed and tailored result in comparison.

19. Why is there no national church leadership for churches and vicarages

The National Church has the Net Zero Programme funded by the Church commissioners. They are providing funding and support for Dioceses and Parishes. More details can be found here: [Net zero carbon routemap | The Church of England](#)