

Changing your church heating

In the past churches have always had to have permission to change their heating, however until July 2022 it was possible to install a new gas or oil boiler by obtaining permission from your Archdeacon. Following the Church of England's commitment to achieving Net Zero Carbon by 2030 the faculty rules were changed to ensure that parishes considered the range of options available to heat their church rather than just replacing a gas or oil boiler.

Under the Faculty Rules Update from July 2022, any relevant proposals must have had due regard to the Church Buildings Council's Advice on Net Zero Carbon, available at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/net-zero-carbon-church>

All changes to boilers now require a faculty submission via the Online Faculty System and the provision of supporting documents.

Process

- Contact the Buildings for Mission Secretary (Martin Howard) for initial advice. He will be able to provide you with resources and links to a wide range of information to support you.*
- Arrange for a visit to your church by the Buildings for Mission Secretary, DAC Heating Adviser or the Diocesan Environmental Officer who will be able to help you identify the heating options available to you.*
- Start a Faculty Application on the Online Faculty System (OFS).
- Complete the Energy Footprint Tool as part of your parish returns.
- Complete the Heating Checklist to help you identify your heating needs.
- Confirmation that you have understood and recognise the ways that your parish can work towards achieving Net Carbon Zero. Produce a document showing that you have paid due regard to the CBC's advice (template available).
- Carry out a simple options appraisal to allow you to make sure that you are choosing the most appropriate system for your church (template available). Some churches may choose to employ a consultant (not a heating contractor) to carry out this work although it is not essential.
- Obtain quotes and specifications for a range of systems relevant to your church. This will be done alongside the options appraisal.
- Submit faculty petition and other supporting documents via OFS.
- DAC may seek additional information from the parish to support the application.
- DAC discusses proposal and provides Notification of Advice.
- Public Notice Displayed for 30 days.
- Registry processes application and Chancellor makes judgement on Faculty application.

* Optional

The DAC encourage you to engage them early in the process to avoid unnecessary delays in the faculty process.

Support

The following are available to support you with your application.

- Buildings for Mission Secretary (DAC Secretary) can provide information and support on heating systems, completing documentation and the Online Faculty System.
- A wide range of resources can be found at [Net zero carbon church | The Church of England](#)
- A range of sample documents and templates to support your application.

Funding

Funding opportunities for Net Zero Heating options are increasing so please contact the Buildings For Mission Secretary or Diocesan Environmental Officer who will be able to tell you if any funding is available for your project.