

The Church of England Energy Footprint Tool – Please use it!

There's still time to enter your church's 2020 data in the Energy Footprint Tool – but only another month. The deadline is 30th September 2021.

The Energy Footprint Tool will tell your church what your "carbon footprint" is, based on the energy you use to heat and light your buildings. One of its great benefits is that once you've entered your data and clicked to confirm, it will display an immediate report and results.

Nationally, across the diocese, and for each of our churches, it helps us know our carbon baseline - where we are starting from - and see how much progress we are making towards Net Zero. It will help us make sensible decisions about how to spend scarce time and money for most impact.

You can find it on the [Online Parish Returns System](#).

Won't 2020 data be useless because of lockdown? No!

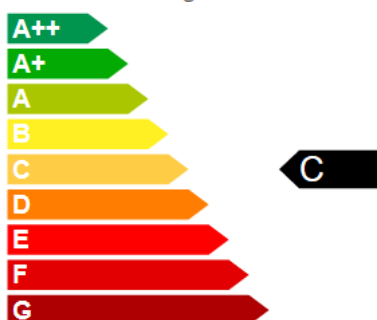
You may think that in 2020 our churches were closed for many weeks, so energy use was not normal, so why collect this information? The EFT has been extended to allow it to adjust for the time spent in lockdown, so that it will provide a sensible comparison of your church's energy consumption compared with data from 2019, and also gives us a way to make sensible comparisons in future years.

What does the Energy Footprint Tool show?

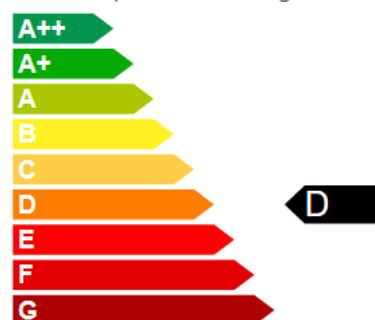
Once you've entered your data, the Energy Footprint Tool will show the amount of carbon produced annually by heating and lighting your church buildings. There are two useful graphs that show you your efficiency scores: one for energy efficiency based on building size and one for attendance.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Energy Footprint Tool. It includes the Church of England logo and the text 'THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND Online Parish Returns System'. There are menu items for 'Enter Your Data', 'View Data', 'Admin Menu', and 'Users Menu', along with a 'Log out' button. Below the navigation bar, there is a status bar showing 'Logged in as: Sam Nunney', 'Diocese: Test Diocese', 'Parish:', and 'Church:'. The main heading of the page is 'Energy Efficiency'.

Emissions/m² rating



Emissions/person hour rating



Headline Results

Weather adjusted net tonnes of CO2 emissions	0.4
Person hours/year	421
CO2 emissions per m ² of usable floor area	27.6
Emissions/m ² rating	C
CO2 emissions per person hour	0.9
Emissions/person hour rating	D

What information do you need to enter?

You will need your utility bills for 2020; electricity, gas, oil, or whichever other fuel you use. If you have solar panels, information on their generation over 2020.

Make sure you enter data for all the church and hall buildings. The system allows you to enter the church first, then other building(s) with separate bills.

For the first time, you can report any offsetting, as well as renewable energy. You'll still get a net carbon footprint associated with your actual energy use, but you can report offsetting on top of that, including offsetting by your utility suppliers.

The system uses the information already held your church to fill in the floor area section. But if this is blank, you will need a sensible estimate of the floor area of the church, and of any other associated buildings you are inputting, such as the church hall.

You will also need a sensible estimate of the number of person-hours that the church is used throughout the year (and other buildings such as the church hall). Please remember when entering this data that a good estimate is fine – make the best ball park estimate you can.

From data to action

Once you've submitted your data, the tool also offers some helpful tips to reduce your carbon emissions. Using the tool each year will help you to track the impact of the different steps you are taking to reduce your carbon footprint. You can use the [Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon](#) to plan your action, and our [Net Zero Carbon church webpage](#) to get helpful information. Watch recorded (and live) helpful practical [net-zero carbon webinars](#) and see how [Parish Buying](#) can support you.

More information

Find out more on the [CofE Energy Footprint Tool](#) page.

You can read more about what we have learned nationally from the 2019 data entered last year, the first year of Energy Footprint Tool, [in this report](#).

List of Links:

Online Parish Returns System –

<https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/login>

Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon -

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

Net Zero Carbon Church webpage -

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

Net Zero Carbon Webinars -

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/webinars-getting-net-zero-carbon>

Parish Buying –

<https://www.parishbuying.org.uk/categories/net-zero-2030>

Energy Footprint Tool page –

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/policy-and-thinking/our-views/environment-and-climate-change/about-our-environment/energy-footprint-tool>

Energy Footprint Tool 2019 report –

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/Energy%20Footprint%20Tool%202019.pdf>