

Energy Footprint Tool Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is it important to complete the EFT?

It should help you to reduce your church's energy usage, reducing impact on the environment and saving money.

Current energy usage is threatening the planet. We have a responsibility as Christians to protect creation, and therefore to change our behaviour to use less energy. Recognising the Church's leadership role in environmental stewardship, the General Synod passed a motion to aim to be net carbon zero by 2030. The Hereford Diocesan Synod followed suit in September 2020. Information you put in will help us as we develop our plan for how to move from our current carbon footprint to net zero.

2. How long should it take to complete?

If you have your energy bills for 2020 to hand then it should only take around 10 minutes. Please just use reasonable estimates where you don't know precise figures.

3. Can I get help with filling it in?

Absolutely. you could watch this short video from the Diocese of Manchester: <https://youtu.be/LyM5kpY1Ijs> . If you would like additional support or advice, please email Liz Mackay on liz.mackay@hereford.anglican.org

4. I have been asked to include the energy consumption for 2020 but the attendance data for 2019. Is that correct?

Yes, the national church has developed a formula to use these two figures together to estimate likely usage in 2020 had attendance been at pre-lockdown levels.

5. It asks about offsetting, what should I say?

Some green/renewable energy tariffs do not supply 100% green energy. Some supply energy from fossil fuels and buy carbon off-setting credits to compensate. If you aren't sure whether your energy supplier actually supplies only green energy or whether they off-set then answer 'unsure'. If you have a tariff with Bulb, Ecotricity, Good Energy, Green Energy, Octopus, Opus Energy, Parish Buying/Energy Basket or others listed in the Energy supplier section of the return then you can be fairly confident they are using 100% renewable energy.

6. Can I trust the pre-populated estimate of the area (square metres) of the church?

Yes, unless you have more accurate figures to hand (e.g. from an architect's drawing).

7. Can I over-ride the attendance figures pulled through automatically from 2019 Stats for Mission?

Yes, if you feel you have information that gives a more accurate representation of the average usage of your church over the course of the year (e.g. you could calculate a Monday to Saturday average by adding together non-Sunday service attendance across the year and dividing by 52 weeks to pick up occasional but large congregations e.g. weddings or funerals). However, any figures you input



should be for 2019, not 2020, as otherwise the national church formula to adjust for lockdown won't work.

8. Will it give me any suggestions for how I can reduce my church's energy footprint?

Yes, but it's tucked away at the bottom of the final page where it gives you your results – scroll down to the bottom! You may also find ideas on the national church website helpful: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/net-zero-carbon-church/practical-path-net-zero-carbon-churches>. If you want to discuss options then do get in touch with Liz Mackay on liz.mackay@hereford.anglican.org