

What sort of work can the Quick Wins grants be used for?

Grants will be awarded in respect of works to church buildings and halls that are focussed on reducing the carbon output of the buildings. This can include the following:-

The building itself:

- A1. Repair to the roof and rainwater goods (e.g. gutters, downpipes)
- A2. Fix any broken windowpanes* and make sure opening windows shut tightly
- A3. Insulate around heating pipes
- A4. Draught-proof the gaps* or put up a door-curtain*.
- A5. Rugs/floor-coverings (with breathable backings) and cushions on/around the pews/chairs.
- B1. Where there is an uninsulated, easy-to access roof void, insulating the loft*.
- B2. Installing a glazed door within your porch or a draught-lobby*.
- B3. Creating one or more smaller (separately heatable) spaces for smaller events.
- B4. Fabric wall-hangings or panels, with an air gap behind.

Heating and lighting:

- A7. Matching heating settings better to usage *.
- A10. Replace lightbulbs with LEDs, where simple replacement is possible.
- A11. Replace floodlights with new LED units.
- A12. Install a HIVE- or NEST-type heating controller, to better control heating.
- A13. If current appliances fail, replace with A+++ appliances.
- B5. Learn how the building heats/cool and the link to comfort, by using data loggers.
- B6. Improve heating zones and controls.
- B7. Install TRVs on radiators in meeting rooms & offices.
- B8a. Under-pew electric heaters *.
- B8b. Infra-red radiant panel heaters*.
- B9. Magnetic sediment "sludge" filter to extend the life of the system.
- B10. Thermal and/or motion sensors on lighting.
- B11. Install energy-saving device such as Savawatt on fridges or other commercial appliances.
- B12. Installing a smart meter, to better measure energy use.

Temporary heating solutions, which enable a church or church hall to avoid undertaking a like-for-like oil- or gas-heating replacement, when their heating breaks down:

- T1. Heated chair cushions *
- T2. Boiler hire
- T3. Electric heater hire or purchase *

It is expected these temporary solutions will last for not more than one year, whilst the church makes plans, seeks advice, applies for faculty, and fundraises. At the end of the temporary period, once the church has installed their permanent heating solution, the diocese has the right to ask for items which have been purchased to become the property of the diocese, in order that they can be lent to other churches.

Electrical upgrades to enable direct electric heating, heat pumps, or solar panels

- E1. Upgrades to the electrical system, to enable a church or church hall to move away from oil or gas heating, or to substantially reduce their use of existing oil or gas heating.

Other

- O1. Heated chair cushions, which either replace or significantly reduce the use of oil and gas fired space heating *.
- O2. Solar PV, where a church can demonstrate it has completed all other measures to transition to net zero carbon, and so this is the next step

** If interiors are of historic, architectural, or artistic interest, professional & DAC advice must be sought before these steps are taken. If they could disturb bats, advice must be sought.*

How do I apply for a grant for my church?

This is done via a simple application form which asks you to provide some details of the project that you are wanting support with. Before any applications are considered the church must have completed the Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) for the previous calendar year.

This application is then considered by the Church Building Panel (CBP) who will receive advice from the Diocesan Environmental Officer or Buildings For Mission Secretary.

When do I need to apply?

You can apply at any time and the Church Building Panel will aim to make a decision as soon as possible. The panel make their decision via an online forum so applications can usually be dealt with quite quickly.

Except in the case of urgent work authorised by Chancellor's Interlocutory Order (confirmatory faculty), there is a presumption that grants and loans will not normally be awarded retrospectively. However, each application will be assessed according to its own merits and the Panel has the right to determine this on a case-by-case basis.

How will I know if my application is successful?

You will receive an email confirming the outcome. If you are unsuccessful, you are welcome to apply again for another project.

When will we get the grant?

In general, all grants are paid in arrears. Once the work has been completed you need to submit an invoice for the amount of the grant along with a copy of the final invoice for the work and evidence that relevant permissions were in place for the work. e.g. a copy of a faculty, Archdeacon's Written Notice, etc.

How often can we apply for a grant?

A parish may apply for two separate grants from the Minor Repairs & Improvement Grant and Quick Wins Grant scheme at the same time. But only one from each scheme. No applications for the same grant scheme (MR&I or QW) will be considered from parishes which are at that time in receipt of funding for a project which has not yet attained its completion. Parishes will not be eligible to apply for two separate grants from either the Minor Repairs & Improvement Grant or Quick Wins Grant streams within a 6 month period. *e.g. the maximum would be two grants from each grant scheme within a year*

The Church Building Panel will prioritise applications from churches who have not received a grant before.

How long do we have to claim the grant?

Any grant awarded should be claimed by the parish within one year of notification of the award but will be subject to interim review by the Panel. The award of grant may be extended by Panel but in all cases the grant must be claimed before the end of 2025.

How much can we request for a Quick Wins Grant?

The amount of grant offered will be for 50% of the total cost of the work. However, the maximum grant considered in relation to an application is up to a maximum of £5,000 (or £6,000 for unlisted churches and halls who cannot reclaim the VAT). CBP has right to review this.

Next steps

If you feel that a grant is something that your parish would benefit from and you have a project ready to go then complete the support application form and return to the Buildings For Mission Secretary (Martin Howard) via email martin.howard@durham.anglican.org

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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