

Net Zero 2030: Green Housing Guide

Tips to help you be more energy efficient, reduce your energy bills, and improve your carbon footprint.

bathandwells.org.uk/environment

Introduction

As a diocese we are aiming to be net zero by 2030. This is an ambitious goal and if we are to achieve it, we all need to play our part. In recent years, our understanding of environmental stewardship has deepened. We now see more clearly the role that homes and everyday habits play in either contributing to or helping to reduce our collective environmental impact. As a resident of one of the diocese's clergy properties, you may feel it is difficult to make changes in your home that can help make a difference, but that's not the case.

We hope this handy guide proves to be a practical and supportive resource for those living in clergy housing - particularly clergy and their families - who wish to explore how they might reduce their energy consumption and environmental footprint through everyday actions, small changes, and informed choices.

It is a signpost, not a specification. A conversation starter, not a checklist. It offers ideas, insights, and encouragement to those who want to do what they can, where they are, with what they have - always mindful that every home and every context is different. There are simple suggestions, and more challenging ones. You may have thought of many of them, but some may be new to you. Every positive change, even a small one, contributes to a bigger effort we are all making to care for this beautiful world we have been gifted with.

Should you wish to get more personalised advice on energy saving solutions, or need advice about your clergy property, do get in touch with us.

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Monitoring and management



Your energy tariff

Switch to a '[green](#)' tariff that is suited to your usage activity to reduce your carbon footprint and potentially save money.



Energy audit/survey

There are many free online [energy audits, including from the World Wildlife Fund](#), that can quickly identify ways to cut energy waste in your home.



Smart meter + in-home display

Monitor your energy use in real time to reduce bills and waste and to keep informed of higher energy use times of the day.



Smart thermostat

Control heating from apps to match usage, energy saving and maintain comfort.



Control humidity

Keeping your home's humidity between 30-50 per cent helps to maximise the effectiveness of your heating. A hygrometer, which measures the amount of humidity in the air, can help you with this.

Heating and insulation



Heat water only when needed

The idea of keeping your hot water at a constant temperature to save money is a [myth](#). To manage hot water usage, heat as needed. Switching the timing of water heating to off peak times will help to reduce heating bills.



Insulate water tank and pipes

Keep water hotter for longer and reduce energy waste with a [hot water tank jacket](#) and/or foam on your pipework. Insulating the tank will keep your home warmer and help save money on bills.



Room not in use? Why heat?

For healthy adults, 18°C is a sufficient indoor air temperature. Lowering your thermostat by just 1°C could save you money each year on your energy bills.



Room not in use? Why heat?

Save energy by turning radiators to the lowest setting in unused spaces/rooms in your home - close off these rooms so cooler air doesn't seep into warm spaces.



Reduce flow temperature

Boiler flow temperatures are usually set too high, and radiators too hot. Combi-boilers flow [temperatures can go down to 55°C](#) whilst conventional boilers can only go down to 65°C.



Maximise radiator efficiency

Maximise efficiency by 'bleeding' them, using [reflectors](#) to direct heat back into the room, and avoid blocking radiators with furniture. Radiator reflectors help the room stay warm for longer, meaning less energy is needed to heat it.



Thermostatic radiator valves

Optimise your heating by using [TRVs](#) to control the temperature of individual rooms, reducing energy waste and improving comfort.



Insulation

Prevent heat loss by insulating the loft, loft hatch, and fitting draught excluders on letterboxes to keep your home warmer.



Localised heating

Save energy by using low-wattage, localised heating like [infrared panels](#) to warm people, rather than heating the entire house.



Thermostat location

Place your thermostat in the most frequently used room to ensure it reflects where warmth is needed most.

Lighting, appliances, electronics



LED lighting

Save energy and reduce costs by switching to LED lighting, which is 10 times more efficient than conventional bulbs.



Solar lamps

Put [solar lamps](#) outside to charge during the day and bring them inside at night for free, renewable lighting.



Ditch overnight charging

Charging devices overnight is a waste of energy, as most only need a few hours to fully charge - unplug once they're ready.



No standby

Avoid leaving devices on standby, as many still draw energy and add unnecessary costs to your bills.



Minimise tumble dryer usage

Reduce energy use and save money by minimising tumble dryer usage. Opt instead for air-drying your clothes whenever possible.

Water



Showering

Water and energy use can be reduced with water-saving showerheads and timers to enjoy more efficient, shorter showers.

[Save Water, Save Money.](#)



Flow regulators

Save water and energy by installing [flow regulators](#) on taps and showerheads to reduce usage without compromising performance.



Washing clothes

Rather than washing small loads, conserve energy and water by washing full loads and using lower temperature settings. Washing at 30°C offers huge savings over a year.



Washing up bowls

Save water and energy by using a washing-up bowl for dishes and boiling only the amount of water you need in a kettle for hot water.



Aerated taps

Water and energy use can be reduced by installing [aerated taps](#), which mix air with water to maintain pressure while reducing flow.

Cooking and kitchen



Maximise fridge/freezer effectiveness

Set appropriate temperatures (not too cold), turn off fast freeze, keep freezer full, and defrost regularly to prevent ice buildup.



Batch cooking

You can save energy and time by batch cooking meals, which reduces oven use.



Oven doors

Finished cooking? If you can safely keep your oven door open you can release residual heat into the room and warm up your kitchen.



Efficient cooking

Using lids to retain heat when boiling water, and opting for cooking methods like air fryers or microwaves instead of the oven, is more efficient.



Dishes and pans

Copper pans have faster heat conduction and glass dishes retain heat longer which helps reduce energy use.

Windows, doors and ventilation



Thermal curtains

Keep your home warmer and reduce heat loss by using [thermal curtains](#) to insulate windows effectively.



Secondary glazing

Improve window insulation on a budget by installing homemade [secondary glazing](#) using plastic film or acrylic sheets.



Chimneys

Blocking draughts by using a [chimney sweep draught excluder](#) or chimney balloon when the fireplace is not in use reduces heat loss.



Draught excluders

Keep your home warmer and stop draughts with fun and functional [sausage draught excluders](#).



Close doors

Closing doors to unused rooms saves energy and keeps heat where it's needed.

Lifestyle changes



Contact your Net Zero Adviser

The Environment team can support you with personalised guidance on energy-saving solutions. Contact environment@bathwells.anglican.org for tailored advice.



Live small

Energy usage can be reduced by 'living small', which means spending most of your time in smaller rooms and heating only the spaces you use regularly.



Live upside down

Living upside down, using upstairs rooms more in winter, as heat naturally rises, can help save energy.



Funding

Explore funding opportunities for larger projects like solar panels with the Property team and Net Zero Adviser.



Knowledge = comfort

Optimise temperature and humidity in your home by using ventilation strategically and utilising natural heat energy.

Energy suppliers & products



Energy tariffs

- [Green electricity tariffs - Centre for Sustainable Energy](#)
- [Ethical & green UK energy suppliers | Ethical Consumer](#)
- [Best green energy suppliers – should I switch? – MSE](#)



Smart thermostats

- [Smart heating | Hive Home](#)
- [The ultimate guide to smart thermostats - Uswitch](#)
- [Nest learning thermostat - programs itself, helps save energy - Google store](#)



Hygrometer

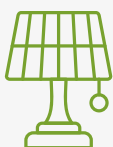
- [Humidity meters | Hygrometers for work & home](#)
- [Thermometer & hygrometer](#)



Radiator reflectors

- [Radiator foil | radiator reflector foil | Screwfix](#)
- [Radiator foil and radiator accessories at B&Q](#)

Energy suppliers & products



Solar lamps

- [Solar lights & solar lighting from Solar Centre](#)
- [Solar lights for the garden | _lights.co.uk](#)



Aerated taps

- [What are tap aerators and how do they work?](#)



Draught excluders

- [Draft excluders - door draught excluders | _Dunelm](#)
- [Draught excluders | _door draught excluders & seals | _Wickes](#)



Infrared heating

- [Infrared Heaters: read people's experience & story](#)
- [Infrared heaters, panels & radiators | _free next day shipping](#)

We have included multiple links throughout this document to help provide ideas on what products are available, as well as useful sources of further information. Please note that we do not specifically recommend or guarantee any of the products or services linked. We strongly advise that you carry out your own research and due diligence before making any decisions.