

Grants for green energy, energy conservation, environment and climate change

The grants situation and possible sources of funding

In the recent past there has been limited funding available for green energy and energy conservation projects, though some local authorities have given grants.

Information on sources of funding are given in this [presentation](#) on Net Zero Carbon by Catherine Ross of the Church of England. This sets out the context for the initiative and the Church's approach before helpfully highlighting useful sources of grants from page 23.

The Church of England's Parish Resources lists a number of possible sources under Charitable Grants for Churches – Environmental and Sustainability Projects: <https://www.parishresources.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Charitable-Grants-for-Churches-Jul-2020.pdf>

The Church of England's general information and advice on Environment and Climate Change is here <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/our-views/environment-and-climate-change>

Sources of grants and the contact details of the Diocesan Environment Officer, Rachel Johnston, are given here <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/environment/>.

This note gives information on a couple more schemes with respect to church buildings.

Parish Buying Energy Basket

The Energy Basket uses the bulk buying power of the Church to obtain competitive prices. 100% of the electricity in the Energy Basket is green, all from UK-based renewable sources. Parish Buying has been working with the Basket provider to do this at no extra cost to our members.

For further information see <https://www.parishbuying.org.uk/categories/energy/energy-basket>.

The Rural Community Energy Fund

At the start of June 2020 we received the following information about the RCEF:

The purpose of the fund is to support rural communities in England to develop renewable energy generation projects that also provide community benefit from the income they produce. The fund is aimed at providing grants either for initial feasibility studies ('stage 1' feasibility grant - any amount up to £40k) or for further development work to realise the project such as planning applications and

development of a business plan ('stage 2' development grant - any amount up to £100k). Further background information is available here:

<https://www.energyhub.org.uk/rural-community-energy-fund/introduction/>

Please note that grants from the Fund don't cover capital costs such as equipment or installations. Please also note that single buildings are not usually eligible for the Fund, unless they're also able to generate enough power to provide for other buildings as well, or can generate an excess of power that's equivalent to their own usage that can be sold back to the grid, with the profit being used for wider community benefit.

Further information and downloads about the application process, which includes the Fund's eligibility criteria (see the RCEF Guidance Notes) are available via this link: <https://www.energyhub.org.uk/rural-community-energy-fund/how-to-apply/>.

Your parishes may also find the following links may be helpful. These are to further information about developing community energy projects which has been compiled by Community Energy England and the Centre for Sustainable Energy. This also includes leads to other funding sources in case RCEF may not be suitable for some of your parish projects.

Community Energy England:

Main site - <https://communityenergyengland.org/>

Resources site - <https://hub.communityenergyengland.org/>

Funding - <https://hub.communityenergyengland.org/resources/funding/>

Centre for Sustainable Energy:

Main site - <https://www.cse.org.uk/>

Local and community energy - <https://www.cse.org.uk/local-energy>

Funding - <https://www.cse.org.uk/local-energy/funding-your-project>

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