

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

The grants situation and possible sources of funding

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

As well as [general advice and information relating to the environment, climate change and Net Zero](#), the Church of England has an Environmental Fundraising page which sets out the funding options for environmental projects: https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/fundraising-for-net-zero-carbon?mc_cid=3902adf674&mc_eid=1bd002ed54#na

The Church of England's Parish Resources lists possible sources under Charitable Grants for Churches – Environmental and Sustainability Projects: <https://www.parishresources.org.uk/resources-for-treasurers/funding/> (click on the link under point 4 for the most up-to-date list).

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>

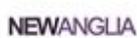
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For further information on grants for green energy, energy conservation, environment and climate change contact the Historic Church Buildings Support Officer HCBSupport@stalbans.anglican.org or the DAC Team dac@stalbans.anglican.org

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Updated by Joanna Chandler-Clarke May 2022