



As many of you will probably know, the Church of England is committed to achieving Net Zero Carbon (NZC) by 2030. This is motivated by a recognition that the global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation, unjust to the poor and future generations and is linked to our Christian mission, as expressed in the Five Marks of Mission.

NZC is defined as the reduction, as far as possible, of all in-scope carbon emissions (which are from the oil, gas and electricity we use in our buildings and petrol and diesel transport related to reimbursable travel for clergy and volunteers) and the removal of an equivalent amount of carbon from the atmosphere for the remaining in-scope emissions by use of accredited offsetting schemes.

Clearly, there is much in common between NZC and the Buildings Category of the Eco Church initiative, which was briefly referred to in the previous Eco Church Article (and, at St. Mary's, we are working on both initiatives). Broadly speaking we need, as far as possible, to:

- insulate our buildings effectively;
- use energy from a green supplier (using sources such as hydro-electricity, solar or wind-power to generate energy) or install equipment to generate our own energy;
- install energy efficient lighting.

As far as NZC is concerned, those emissions we cannot eliminate can be offset by investing in programmes that reduce emissions such as planting trees and investing in conservation.

Similar principles also apply to us as individuals and, as part of the Eco Church Lifestyle category, we are encouraged to consider some of our personal lifestyle practices in terms of energy consumption and our carbon foot-print. We all know that turning our heating down by one degree and not using a car for short journeys are good for the environment (and our pocket), but did you know:

- If everyone in the UK swapped just one more red meat-based meal to a plant-based meal per week, we would cut the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by 50 million tonnes, resulting in up to an 8.4% reduction in the UK's total emissions.
- Overall, the fashion industry is responsible for 8-10% of global emissions, more than aviation and shipping combined. If everyone bought a maximum of 8 new items per year this could reduce fashion's emissions by 37%.

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