

Funding of Sustainable Improvements for Church Buildings



Scottish Episcopal Church Net Zero Team

Edinburgh Diocese Synod, 24 October 2024

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External Funding Resources

The **Net Zero Portal** funding page includes:

- **29** funds for Building projects
- **14** funds for Biodiversity projects
- **9** funds for Active Travel
- **3** funds for Rectories
- **2** funds for Zero Waste projects



The number of funders is being added to all the time



Provincial Funding

If you are interested in applying for provincial funding, have a look at the information below and then **contact** your rep from the Net Zero team.

▶ **Rectory Green Fund**

▶ **Building Grants Fund**

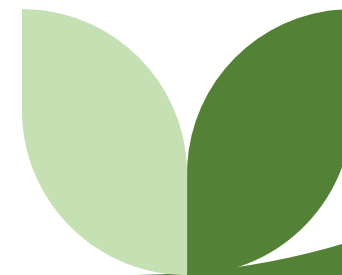
▶ **Building Loans Fund**

▶ **Diocesan funding**



Building Grants Fund...now including Net Zero funds

- Fund for general building projects and those focused on reducing carbon.
- Grants up to 50% of total cost of works.
- Building must be wholly church owned
- Diocese must support applications.
- Buildings Grant Group allocate both large and small grants
- Net Zero team must review all applications
- Consult with Net Zero team if works are related to reducing carbon



Building Loans Fund

- Loans available for reducing carbon in any church building.
- Loans available for five years maximum.
- Fixed interest rate of 5%
- Short-term bridging loans will be considered
- This can help get projects started while awaiting receipt of external grants

- Diocesan funding may also be available.

Grants Process

Rectory Green Fund

NEW



Buildings Grant Fund



- O1.3: Plans for rectory upgrades by end of 2024
- O1.4: 35% of rectories achieve minimum EPC rating of C by 2025

Rectory Green Fund – The Small Print

The Rectory Green Fund provides financial assistance to charges undertaking works to clergy housing to improve their energy efficiency and reduce carbon footprint. Rectories should be at an EPC of C and funds can be used to improve EPC to reach or exceed this level.

Grants for up to £5,000 are available for such works. Any grants provided by the fund must be matched by diocesan grants.

Any application must be endorsed by a member of the provincial Net Zero team before moving forward to the Building Grants Group. Start off by contacting your Diocesan contact within the Net Zero team.

Any works designed to improve energy efficiency or reduce a property's carbon footprint will be considered – in cases where costs exceed the combined rectory green fund grant / diocesan grant they will be also eligible for grant support from the Building Grants Fund – total provincial grant funding will not normally exceed 50% of costs.

Examples of what this fund could be used for:

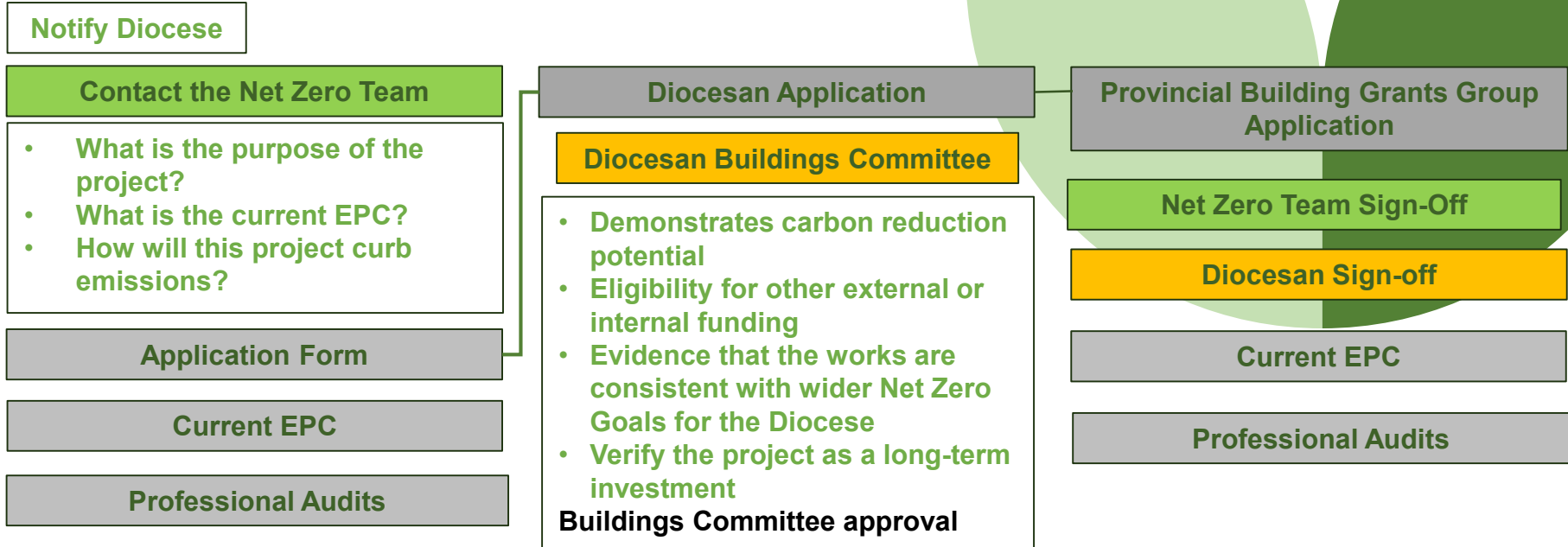
- Insulation
- Replacement windows and doors
- Energy efficiency heating system (air source / ground source heat pumps)
- Solar panels
- Radiant heat



Rectory Green Fund Grants Process

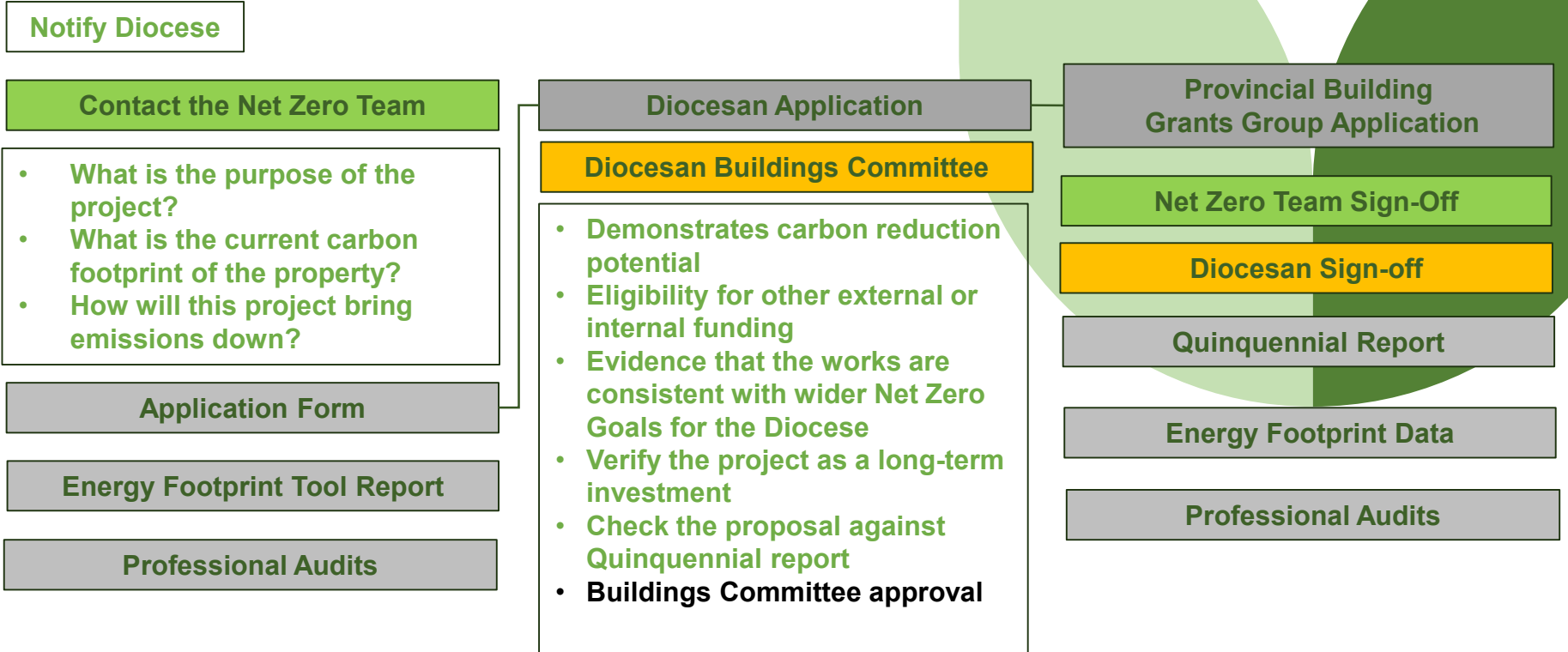
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Rectory Green Fund



Buildings Grant Fund Grants Process

Buildings Grant Fund



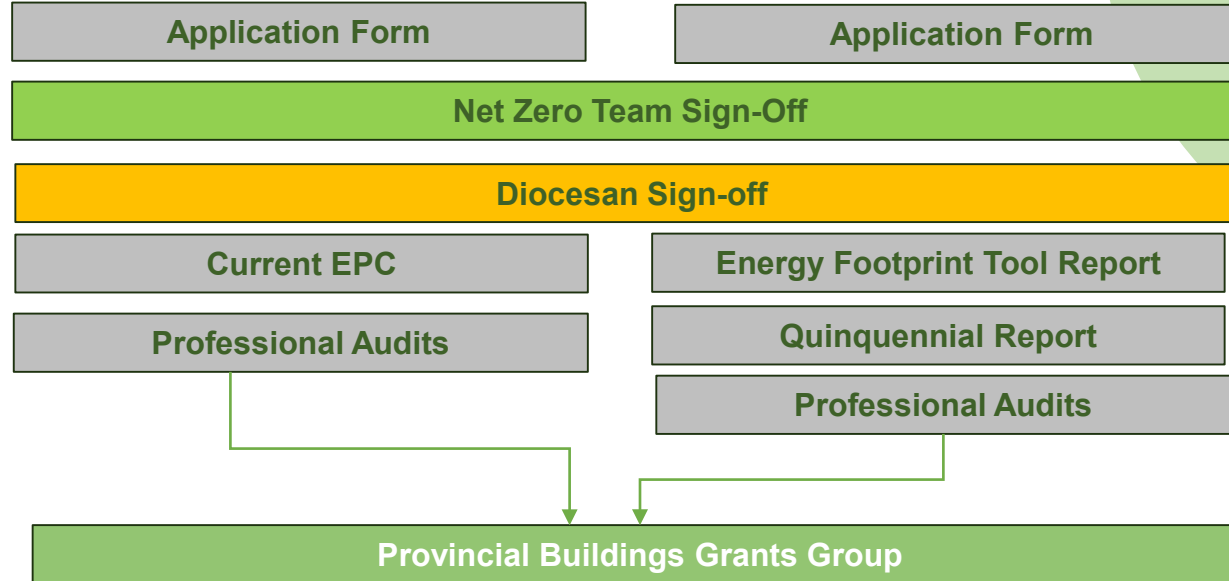
Grants Process In Summary:

Rectory Green Fund

NEW



Buildings Grant Fund



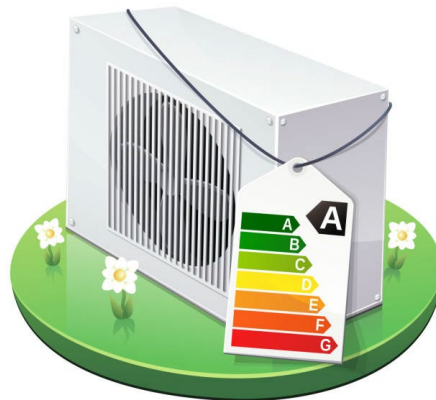
Examples of Improvements

Renewable Energy Measures

- Heat pumps
- Solar panels
- Infrared Heaters
- Conversion of heat sources (gas to electric)
- Turbines



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Energy Efficiency Measures

- Insulation
- Double-glazing or new windows/doors
- Boiler cladding
- Draught-proofing



External Funding Tips

1. Do your research!
2. Make applications personal and community-focused
3. Know the funding guidance inside-out
4. Ask for help from the Net Zero team
5. Learn from feedback and persevere

Application Support



- Application processes can take months before funding is awarded
- Keep tradespeople informed during this process
- Funding options and deadlines can change – keep an eye on the Net Zero Portal funding page for up-to-date information
- Consider the long-term financial benefits of your project



How the Net Zero team can help:

- Support applications for provincial funding
- Consult on applications for external funding
- Research funds and design projects

Upcoming Events

Building Sustainable Futures for Scottish Churches: Meet the Funders at Paisley Abbey

1st November 8:00-17:00

Net Zero is a Dry Building (seminar on proactive maintenance from National Churches Trust)

13th November – 1:00pm, webinar

National Churches Trust Grants & Cherish Scotland

28th November – 1:00pm, webinar

National Lottery Community Fund Awards for All

16th January 2025 – 1:00pm, webinar

netzerochurch.scot/events



Net Zero Portal Funding Guidance



The **Net Zero Portal** has details of many funding sources.

Funding is updated weekly.

Add your email address to the **Subscribe** button, to keep up to date with news and stories.



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