

Synod Advance Fund

Grants to support Churches and Circuits in initiatives to combat Climate Change - Updated October 2023

The Synod Schemes & Grants Committee recognises the importance of the Churches and members, collectively and as individuals, taking action as part of their commitment to stewardship of creation. It is encouraging that some churches and Circuits are already taking steps to become Eco Churches or to simply reduce their collective carbon footprint. The Synod encourages churches to engage with Eco Church.

The types of initiatives could include: awareness raising or campaign events in the community on environmental issues; young peoples' participation in environmental action; creation of gardens; increasing biodiversity on church grounds; small scale energy reduction initiatives -LED lighting, insulation, switching appliances from gas to green electricity, and installation of photovoltaic panels.

Structural or larger building modifications on environmental grounds can also apply to the SS&GC under building schemes where up to 15% of the cost (maximum of £30k) is available.

Projects should follow these guidelines.

Guidelines

Proposals should be submitted on the SAF application form (Available on the Synod website or on request). The application should include:

- A plan with clear objectives and activities (eg how much carbon will be saved, or the extent of the outreach or engagement)
- How the success of the project will be monitored.
- Budgets which indicate the costs and any additional sources of funds or fundraising
- Proposals should be approved by the churches own planning and financial procedures – please include the date of that approval
- Notification of the application to Circuit (for coordination)

Grants up to a maximum of £6000 are available:

- Requests for under £1000 receive 100%
- Requests over £1000 can receive £1000 plus 50% of expenditure over £1000.

Reporting Requirements

Churches receiving grants should produce a short report indicating the outcomes of the project and any lessons learnt after 12 months. This will enable the committee to evaluate the effectiveness of the scheme.

Any questions please contact Gill Peace: peaceloss1@btinternet.com