

Diocese of Chester Net Zero Carbon Project Officer

Job Title:	Net Zero Carbon Project Officer
Hours of Work:	Full-time, for 12 months including some evenings and weekends. (There would hope to be a two-year extension dependent on securing National Church funding)
Reporting to:	Lead Officer for Buildings and Environment
Normal Place of Work:	Church House, Daresbury Park, Warrington, WA4 4GE. (Some travel around the diocese will be required.)
Remuneration:	£31,071 per annum

Background

The Diocese of Chester is working towards Net Zero Carbon by 2030, in line with the decision of General Synod in February 2020, aiming to reduce the emissions from energy consumption year on year and to incorporate sustainable working practices across all of our operations. This work is being undertaken in line with the Routemap to Net Zero passed by the Diocesan Synod in November 2022. The Diocesan Synod and the Bishop of Chester see this as an important part our mission and ministry as a Diocese, and as an outworking of the fourth and fifth Marks of Mission.

We seek to appoint a Net Zero Carbon Project Officer to continue the work identified in the Net Zero Carbon Action Plan and by taking practical steps towards its implementation.

Duties and key responsibilities:

Diocese

- Work within the Diocesan vision and strategy to meet our Routemap goals,
- Working as part of a team to discern costed Action Plan and then helping to lead the implementation of, and reporting against, this plan.
- Engaging with stakeholders across the diocese.
- Feeding into a Report of progress against this plan to the Bishops' Council and/or Director's meeting quarterly.
- Gather data and helping provide an annual carbon emissions report to Diocesan Synod.
- Audit Diocesan landholdings and help develop a land management plan.
- Take particular responsibility for auditing of diocesan offices and implementation of NZC measures in them.

Clergy Housing

In collaboration with Houses and Glebe Committee and Finance and Scrutiny Committee:

- Compile the data from Audits of property occupied by clergy and analyse the data to help develop a property retrofitting plan in conjunction with the Property team
- Manage a pilot project involving 2 vicarages to demonstrate feasibility of retrofitting clergy housing with insulation and double glazing.
- Help produce a database of costed options for carbon reduction systems that may include solar panels and heat pumps
- Help explore funding opportunities for large scale retrofitting of clergy housing

Parish churches and other buildings, and cathedral

In collaboration with DAC and Archdeacons:

- Assist with setting expectations for APCM reports, QI's and Archdeacons' Visitations

In collaboration with DAC and the Lead Officer for Buildings and Environment

- Ensure good general advice is shared to enable all churches to move towards:
- Completion of Energy Footprint Tool (90% compliance by Nov 2025)
- Help to encourage parishes to undertake energy audits
- Helping Parishes to Develop their own decarbonisation plans, including advice on permissions
- Support Parishes with finding funding including quick wins, such as adoption of green energy tariffs and installation of energy efficient lighting
- Work proactively with 20% most emitting churches to see significant reductions in emissions, including consideration of heating options.
- Explore and advise on funding support for parishes, including local authority and national government funding

Partnership

- Attend meetings of the Environment Diocesan Group and Eco Church Network and collaborate with these groups in their work to improve EcoDiocese and EcoChurch status for the diocese and local churches respectively.
- Work in collaboration with equivalent post holders in other northern dioceses to enable best practice and sharing of resources. Input to and learn from the national Net Zero Carbon Resource Hub. Collaborate with the national Net Zero Carbon programme team.
- Be proactive in collaboration with DBE and DBE Services by sharing data and good practice. Promote and collaborate on joint reporting to Diocesan leaders regarding progress to NZC.
- Be aware of, and where possible contribute to, local authority discussion and decision making, particularly in the three local authorities that lie wholly within the diocese.

September 2025