General information & how to apply

Thank you for your interest in the post of Net Zero Carbon Programme Officer.

In this document you will find some general information about the role and the Church Buildings Team along with information about how to apply. The job description and person specification are contained in a separate document.

The Diocese of Leicester was founded in 1926. It covers an area of nearly 835 square miles in the East Midlands and includes the city of Leicester, Loughborough, Ashby de la Zouch, Hinckley, Lutterworth, Market Harborough and Melton Mowbray.

We have a significant built heritage, of our 301 church buildings open for public worship. 91% are listed, 73% are listed Grade I or II*. These are looked after by Parochial Church Councils (PCCs). PCCs may also be responsible for other buildings e.g. church halls.

The Diocese serves a wide range of different communities. Leicester is a very diverse city and is now the UK's first 'super-diverse' city; a city which has no single ethnic group in a majority. The county of Leicestershire includes both very rural areas with an agricultural heritage, and areas with an industrial heritage. Churches are at the heart of these communities, with congregations representing a broad range of cultures and Christian traditions.

The Diocese is currently in the process of undergoing a major programme of change to form Minster Communities. These are groups of parishes who work together (without losing their individual identity) to strengthen local churches so that they can better serve their own communities. We are currently still forming Minster Communities and expect to continue to do so into 2027.

Our Diocese has a long-standing commitment to care for the environment. In 2019 our Diocesan Synod unanimously voted to work through the A Rocha Eco Church scheme towards achieving the Eco Diocese Bronze award, which we gained in 2023. In 2021 our Synod approved a Diocesan Environmental policy committing the diocese to reduce carbon emissions, in support of the national church aim for net zero carbon by 2030, and to encourage parishes to apply for Eco Church status. Our Diocesan Strategy (2024-34), approved by Diocesan Synod in September 2024 makes Eco-Communities one of our 5 strategic priorities and this includes a commitment to reduce our diocesan carbon footprint in line with the national target.

Our existing diocesan teams are taking responsibility for progress towards decarbonisation, within the constraints of the resources available to them (i.e. capacity and the funding available for projects). Those working with church buildings, property (clergy housing &

offices) and schools have made some progress, but more capacity is needed, in particular parishes require more support than can be provided by the current Church Buildings Team.

We have drawn upon the workstreams in the Church of England's National NZC programme (2026-28) to shape our own Diocesan Environmental Programme for 2026-29. In this triennium we have 3 main aims:

- A commitment to achieve Eco Diocese Silver award by the end of 2029
- A commitment to reduce our diocesan carbon footprint in line with the national target of net-zero by 2030
- to establish & maintain a flourishing network of Eco-Communities

Whislt each aim has a district focus with a distinct set of measurable outcomes, there is a significant degree of overlap and a natural synergy between them which we hope will lead to achieving greater progress towards decarbonisation than taking a narrow approach focusing on NZC. We are now looking to develop and deliver our holistic environmental programme, which includes placing two new roles within the Church Buildings Team; the NZC Programme Officer & the Diocesan Environmental Officer (DEO).

We are looking for somebody who is excited by the opportunity to make a lasting contribution to reducing carbon emissions and to making churches and church halls more sustainable.

The primary focus of the NZC Programme Officer's role is to educate and support parishes to make progress in their journey towards decarbonisation. The NZC Programme Officer will need to develop working relationships outside of the office, on-site at various churches. There will be frequent contact with clergy, churchwardens and members of PCCs and congregations to support and enable them in making informed and planned decisions to reduce carbon emissions in their churches and church halls.

The NZC Programme Officer will be part of the newly formed Church Buildings & Environmental Programme Team, working under the line management of the Head of Church Buildings & Environmental Programme Team and alongside the Diocesan Environmental Officer, the Historic Churches Support Officer and the DAC Secretary. The DEO's role is to lead in engaging the hearts and minds of people across the diocese as we work to care for God's Creation and reduce our carbon emissions and will lead on the delivery of the Eco-Church and Eco-Communities elements of our programme.

This is a new fixed-term post made possible by a Building Capacity Grant from the Church of England's Net Zero Carbon Programme. The funding is for an initial period of up to three years, ending 30th June 2029. There may be a possibility for a further grant but this is not known at this stage.

More information about our diocesan strategy and strategic priorities can be found at: Our Diocesan Strategy - Diocese of Leicester

More information about Eco Communities & Eco Diocese can be found at:

https://www.leicester.anglican.org/about-us/our-strategic-priorities/eco-diocese/

More information about Minster Communities can be found at:
Minster Communities - Diocese of Leicester

More information about A Rocha's Eco Church Scheme can be found at:
Eco Church - An A Rocha UK Project

General information on the Church of England's commitment to Net Zero Carbon and the NZC Programme can be found at
Net zero carbon routemap | The Church of England

How to apply

Apply via the Pathways recruitment website.

Closing Date: Monday 30th November

Shortlisting date: Wednesday 2nd December

Interview Date: Tuesday 8th December

For an informal conversation about the role, contact Gill Elliott, Head of Church Buildings & Environmental Programme Team

Tel: 07947 353129

Email: Gill.Elliott@Leicestercofe.org