



Twinned with the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone

Action for Hope Grants Policy and Guidelines

Introduction and Context:

The Methodist Church in Britain is committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 as part of its **Action for Hope** initiative. The Action for Hope Grants support local churches in making practical changes that reduce carbon emissions, promote sustainability, and foster environmental stewardship within their communities.

Eligibility and Scope:

Local churches can apply for grants if they meet the following criteria:

- The church has a **Mission Plan** committed to creating care and climate justice.
- The project proposal is consistent with the local church's Mission Plan and aligned with the Circuit's broader mission goals.
- The church is registered with **Eco Church** at <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk>. Registration is the first step, and it does not require achieving a specific award before applying for the grant.
- The church agrees to share the story of its improvements with the district and the broader Connexion to inspire others.

Grant Priorities:

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Contribute to measurable reductions in the church's carbon footprint, supported by energy audits or feasibility assessments.
- Promote environmental sustainability through renewable energy installations, energy efficiency improvements, or waste reduction measures.
- Encourage engagement with the **Eco Church** programme, working towards at least a **Bronze Award**.

Eligible Projects:

Grants may be used for:

- **Energy Efficiency Improvements:** Projects like insulation, double glazing, LED lighting, or upgrading heating systems to reduce energy use.
- **Renewable Energy:** Installing solar panels, heat pumps, or other renewable energy sources.
- **Carbon Audits:** Feasibility studies, energy audits, or assessments aimed at calculating and reducing the carbon footprint of church buildings.
- **Transportation:** Initiatives that promote sustainable transport options for the church community, such as carpooling, cycling, or reducing the need for car travel.
- **Educational Programmes:** Projects that raise awareness about creation care and promote sustainable living practices within the church community.

Assessment Criteria:

Applications will be assessed based on the following factors:

- **Mission Alignment:** How well the project aligns with the church's Mission Plan and the **Action for Hope** goals.
- **Carbon Impact:** The project's potential to reduce carbon emissions is supported by data from tools such as 360Carbon (<https://360carbon.org>).
- **Feasibility:** The practicality of the proposed project, including a feasibility assessment or energy audit.
- **Sustainability:** Whether the project has the potential for long-term environmental and financial sustainability.

Reporting and Accountability:

- **Progress Report:** Successful applicants are encouraged to submit a mid-project progress report detailing the project's development and any early results to the District Policy Committee.
- **Final Report:** Upon completion, churches are encouraged to submit a final report to DPC highlighting the carbon reductions achieved, outcomes, and any lessons learned from the project.
- **Sharing the Story:** Churches are encouraged to share their success stories with the wider Methodist Connexion through district or Connexional communications teams.

Application Process:

1. **Application Form:** Complete the **Action for Hope Grant Application** form, available on the Methodist Church website.
2. **Submission:** Submit the completed application form, along with supporting documents (such as the church's Mission Plan, budget, and energy audit), to the District Grants Officer by email: bryan.yardy@me.com
3. **Eco Questions:** For eco-related questions or guidance on sustainable practices, contact the **District Eco Church Officer**, Louise Whitelegg, at: lwhitelegg@christian-aid.org
4. **Review Process:** The District Eco Church Officer will initially review the application and make any comments and recommendations. DPC will review all applications and allocate grants according to the scheme criteria. Applicants can expect a decision shortly after the DPC meeting date.

Application Deadline:

Please ensure that you submit your grant application by **15th July 2025** for the District Eco Officer and the DPC to review.

Accessibility and Additional Information:

- For individuals without email access or requiring assistance with the application, please contact Revd Bryan Yardy (Tel: 01624 812385).
- Questions regarding the application process or eligibility can be directed to the above email or telephone number.

Policy Review and Updates:

This policy will be reviewed annually by the District Policy Committee to ensure it continues to meet the goals of the **Action for Hope** initiative and supports churches in their environmental efforts