



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.

**Each local church may apply for a grant of up to £1,000** to support projects that contribute to these aims.

### 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.

### Eligible Projects:

Grants may be used for physical and practical projects such as:

- **Heating and Lighting 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.
- **Transportation:** Initiatives promoting sustainable community transport options, such as cycling initiatives.

## 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 FootprintMe (<https://footprintr.me/>).
- **Sustainability:** Whether the project has the potential for long-term environmental and financial sustainability.
- **Easy Wins:** We would recommend that applicants have looked at [The Practical Pathway to Net Zero](#)

## Reporting and Accountability:

- **Timeframe:** The project must be completed within 12 months of grant approval.
- **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: [grants@methodist.org.im](mailto:grants@methodist.org.im)
3. **Eco Questions:** For eco-related questions or guidance on sustainable practices, contact the **District Eco Church Officer**, Louise Whitelegg, at: [dpo@methodist.org.im](mailto:dpo@methodist.org.im)
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 before **31 December 2025**, when the AfH grant will close.

**Accessibility and Additional Information:**

- For individuals without email access or requiring assistance with the application, please contact Jane Foxon (Tel: 01624 833154).
- Questions regarding the application process or eligibility can be directed to the above email or telephone number.