

## Synod Energy and Energy Efficiency Fund

This is a designated fund to support churches experiencing significantly increased energy bills and churches undertaking work to improve the energy efficiency of their church buildings.

Churches seeking help to pay energy bills may apply directly to the **Synod Finance and Governance Officer**, Mrs Donna Varley c/o Synod Office (tel: 0115 960 9241 or email: [finance@urc5.org.uk](mailto:finance@urc5.org.uk)), using the Energy Crisis Fund Application Form: <https://www.urc5.org.uk/resources/energy-support-scheme-local-churches>

Churches applying for a grant to support work to improve the energy efficiency of their church buildings should apply using the Synod Energy and Energy Efficiency Fund Application Form.

The principle conditions for a grant to be awarded are:

1. Churches applying for grant support under this scheme will have registered for the Eco Church Award scheme and have completed the survey.
2. Applications for grant support will need to indicate the Eco Church Award level the church has already achieved, the elements in the Eco Church survey to which the proposed work will contribute, and the difference the work will make.
3. Energy Efficiency Grants will not normally be awarded to a church which has already received a grant under this scheme for energy saving works in the last three years. **(For the avoidance of doubt, there is no restriction on the frequency of requests for help to pay significantly increased energy bills. The receipt of such support does not prohibit application for a grant towards the costs of work to improve energy efficiency.)**
4. Grant applications should be supported by at least two quotations for any project over £2,500. Synod at its discretion may allow lesser value projects to be supported by one quotation only.
5. United Churches and Local Ecumenical Partnerships will only be eligible for the appropriate proportion of the grant – that is, in accordance with the constitution or sharing agreement. It is hoped that all denominations in the LEP will contribute proportionately.
6. Synod will need to see the latest completed accounts (including the Examiners /Auditors Report) of the church making the application.
7. It is a condition of the grant that M&M payments are up to date and there are no arrears (unless a payment plan has been agreed with the Synod Treasurer/Finance Group).
8. **A grant will not be awarded to cover the cost of a feasibility study alone, but churches may indicate the cost of such as part of an application for work planned.**

## Process

1. Applications will be considered twice a year with deadlines for consideration being 1st March and 1st September each year.
2. A panel (normally of between 3 and 6 members) will consider the application. The panel will be drawn from a number of suitably qualified/experienced individuals with appropriate knowledge/experience of buildings and their management.
3. Every effort will be made to inform applicants of the panel's response to the application by the end of April (for March applications) or the end of October (for September applications), although this may be a request for clarification of points on the application. In some cases, it may be appropriate to refer back the application for further work and re-submission later.

## When determining the level of grant offered, the panel has the following guide:

1. The maximum grant available is £15,000.
2. A Synod grant is conditional on the church raising or contributing a proportion of the project cost as follows:
  - a. Project costs up to £1,000 – maximum Synod contribution = 90%
  - b. Project costs between £1,001 and £10,000 – max. Synod contribution = 75%
  - c. Project costs between £10,001 and £30,000 – max. Synod contribution = 50%

In the event that the project comes in under the expected cost, any “excess grant” is repayable to Synod to be added back into the Synod Energy and Energy Efficiency Fund so that other applicants may benefit.

Synod will need to see and examine the accounts of the church making the application, normally supported by at least 2 quotations. Synod may offer a grant but will require evidence that the church has its contribution to the costs in place before the grant is confirmed. Normally, payment will be made by BACS into the church bank account on receipt of a copy of the invoice for the completed work.

If you wish to apply for a grant from this fund, please complete the application form in all respects and send to:

Synod Property Officer –

It is preferred requests are sent by email: [property@urc5.org.uk](mailto:property@urc5.org.uk)

Postal address is : The United Reformed Church – East Midlands Synod  
1 Edwards Lane, Nottingham. NG5 3AA