

East Anglia District Action for Hope Eco Grant Policy and Criteria

District Policy

Applications should be made using the forms agreed by DPC for churches and for circuits.

Small grants of up to £1,000 may be made with no other funding requirements, so the grant could be the full cost of a small project, such as the price of improved loft insulation, a set of recycling bins for a church, changing light bulbs to LED, the expenses of setting up an eco-garden, adding bird boxes, hedgehog dens and gates or other adaptations, for instance. More than one grant application may be made over time, but no church may receive more than a total of £1,000 through this small grants scheme.

The fee for an energy audit will not be covered by the small grants scheme, but may be included as a cost in a larger project in response to the energy audit, such as improved insulation, secondary or double glazing, a change of heating system, or installation of solar panels.

Grants over £1,000 will be proportional to the full cost of the project. For a church project a grant would be up to one third of the cost, looking for the church and circuit to make up the rest. For a circuit project a grant would be up to half of the cost, for example for work done to a circuit manse, looking for the circuit to make up the rest.

Application to the District for other grants for the same project may be made in addition to this scheme, including by the usual DAF grants process, as well as to Hunter Rowe.

Criteria

The district has received from the Connexional Action for Hope scheme a single grant to be used according to the criteria below. The intention is to encourage spending on Eco projects to see what can be done and to inspire further such work. There is no continuing stream of Connexional funding promised at the present time.

District Criteria

The district has received money for grant-giving from this fund because:

- The district has an up-to-date environment policy. This means that the environment policy has been agreed by the District Policy Committee within the last 5 years, with an agreed date to revisit the policy.
- The district currently measures carbon emissions from buildings where energy bills are paid directly by the district and district funded travel and has plans to institute ongoing measurement of this nature.
- The district is registered as an eco-district through the Eco Church programme.
- The district has a nominated eco-lead/contact.
- Assessment against these criteria has been made by the Action for Hope Implementation Officer (in conversation with colleagues), who has worked with district eco-leads to help them reach this point.

Circuit Criteria

A circuit will be eligible for a grant if:

- The circuit has a Mission Plan which includes a consideration of creation care and climate justice.
- The circuit is registered with Eco Church (<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>). This is free to do and does not require a particular 'standard' to have been reached. It is the first step on this journey.
- The circuit agrees to share the story of their improvements with the district (and the broader Connexion as appropriate) to inspire others.
- The circuit has a project plan which includes the building(s) current carbon footprint and an estimate of the footprint once the project is complete, as well as a feasibility assessment (eg. Energy audit) to ensure that the proposed changes are appropriate to the context.

Church Criteria

A church will be eligible for a grant if:

- The church has a Mission Plan which includes a consideration of creation care and climate justice.
- The proposal is consistent with the Circuit Mission Plan.
- The church is registered with Eco Church (<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>). This is free to do with Eco Church and does not require a particular 'standard' to have been reached. It is the first step on this journey.
- If asked, the church agrees to share the story of their improvements with the district (and the broader Connexion as appropriate) to inspire others.
- The church wishes to undertake a feasibility assessment but does not currently have the funds to finance this themselves.

OR

The church has a project plan which includes the church's current carbon footprint and an estimate of the footprint once the project is complete, as well as a feasibility assessment (eg. Energy audit) to ensure that the proposed changes are appropriate to the context. Online tools (e.g. 360Carbon) can be used to establish the current footprint, and can also be used to estimate the 'new' footprint using reasonable estimated data for after the project.