



St Luke's Church Net Zero Strategy

In February 2020, the Church of England's General Synod set a goal of Net Zero by 2030 ([source](#)). Bishop of Salisbury, Nick Holtam, the Church of England's lead bishop on Environmental Affairs said:

"This is a clear statement of intent across the Church and to wider society about our determination to safeguard God's creation. This is a social justice issue, which affects the world's poorest soonest and most severely, and if the Church is to hold others to account, we have to get our own house in order."

Diocese of Winchester has been taking steps, led by the Diocese Environmental Group (DEG), to encourage parishes in the Diocese to 'care for God's creation'.

At a local level, we have agreed to respond and do our part. It will be such an achievement to get to a time when St Luke's Church no longer contributes to the climate crisis. What a powerful message that is to share within our congregation and local community as a testament to our faith and care for God's creation. As we are in a fortunate position, with a modern-built, well-insulated church and an active Eco Church group, we have agreed to the following ambitious target:

St Luke's Church aims to be Net Zero by 2025.

To achieve the above target we have agreed to do the following:

St Luke's Church will make reductions to its carbon emissions where possible and feasible. The remaining carbon emissions will be offset¹² using a carbon offsetting scheme³⁴. The proportion of our emissions being offset will be phased in incrementally: 20% of the church's emissions offset in 2021, 40% in 2022, 60% in 2023, 80% in 2024 and 100% in 2025.

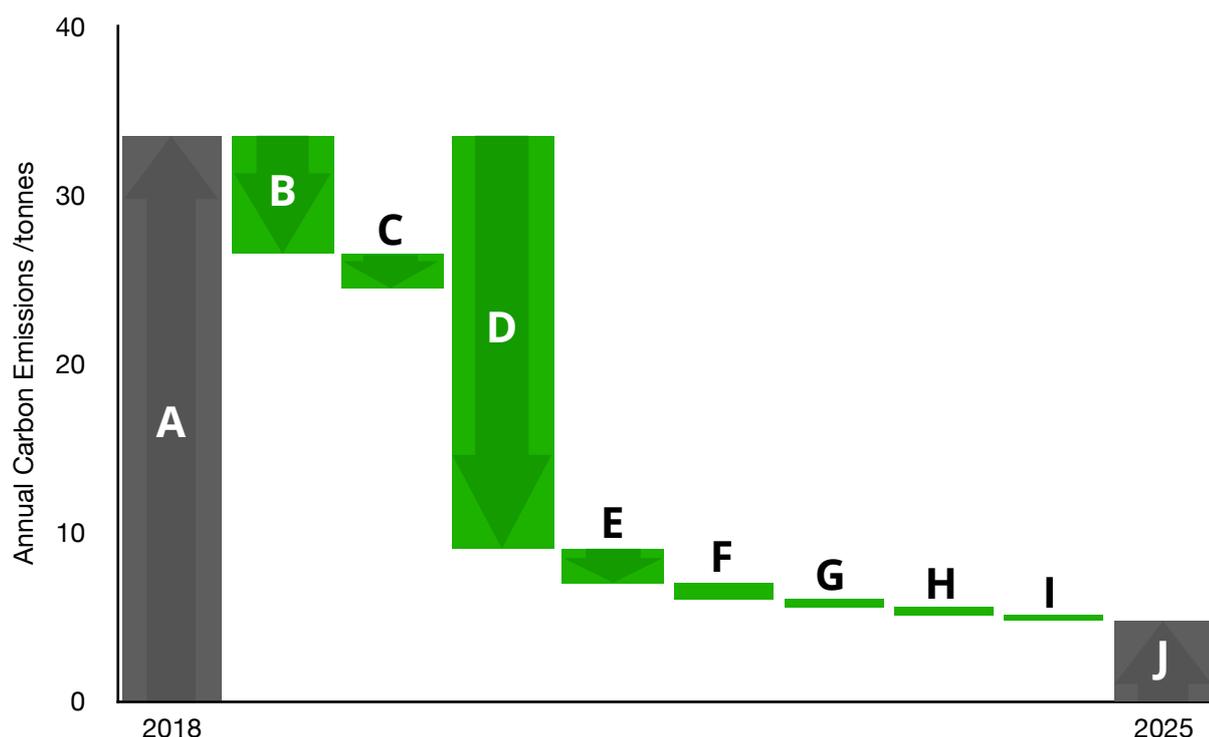
Our church emissions are measured using the Climate Stewards 360° Carbon Footprint tool ([source](#)). Using this tool, a comprehensive assessment of the church's footprint is calculated under the following categories: energy, travel, food, expenditure, and waste & water. There is potential to reduce emissions in all of those categories. Please see below a waterfall graph illustrating where some of the reductions to our church carbon footprint might come from, and what impact that would have on our overall footprint.

¹ Offsetting allows the church, using carbon positive programmes such as afforestation or the expansion of renewable energies, to pay for the same amount of carbon the church emits to be drawn back out of the atmosphere elsewhere. The result is no net carbon in the atmosphere.

² Please note that the priority is to reduce our own emissions first and foremost. Carbon offsetting is a secondary measure as it is inherently better for the environment for the carbon not to be released into the atmosphere in the first place. The cost of offsetting our remaining carbon emissions will act as a financial incentive for the church to make the necessary changes to reduce emissions.

³ The decision as to which organisation and which offsetting scheme to use will be made at a later date in 2021 following consultation between the PCC and Eco Church.

⁴ In terms of the financial implication of agreeing to this, as a reference point, through the Christian environmental charity Climate Stewards carbon offsetting costs approximately £20 per tonne per year.



The grey bars represent St Luke's annual carbon emissions (excluding offsetting). The green bars are carbon emission reduction options. The table below is a key to the graph, explaining what each letter 'A' to 'J' represents.

A	B	C	D	E
33.5 tonnes emitted in 2018	7 tonnes/year saved by fine-tuning the heating controls	2 tonnes/year saved by replacing all lights within the church with LEDs	24.5 tonnes/year saved by switching to a renewable gas & electricity supplier*	2 tonnes/year saved by offering lower-carbon food
F	G	H	I	J
1 tonne/year saved by encouraging the leadership & congregation to use alternatives to combustion engine vehicles (e.g. EV/walk/cycle)	0.5 tonnes/year saved by purchasing eco-friendly stationary & cleaning supplies	0.5 tonnes/year saved by increasing recycling & reducing number of bins going to landfill	0.25 tonnes/year saved by reducing water usage & wastage	Potential to reduce to <5 tonnes emitted in 2025

*As of 2021, we have already committed to this carbon emission reduction measure.

Please note that the above figures represent the *potential reductions* and are indicative only. The actual amount we will reduce may vary. Also note that this list is not exhaustive (we may think of other emissions savings ideas) and we may not decide to go forward with all of the above ideas. However, what the graph does show is that if we achieve all of the potential reductions outlined here, we will reduce our emissions by 85% compared to our emissions in 2018 (the year the Eco Church group was formed).