



Net Zero Policy and Outline Plan

Background

Fossil fuels, when burnt, result in carbon dioxide emissions, contributing to global heating, which is already impacting people worldwide.

In 2021, the Methodist Conference agreed an aspirational target to become a net zero Church by 2030. Net zero can be achieved by reducing carbon dioxide emissions and/or by offsetting (implementing methods of absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere).

The renovation scheme completed in 2012 has already helped to reduce our carbon dioxide emissions. For example, it reduced our number of buildings from 2 to 1, reduced the volume of air to be heated in the Main Space, and provided much insulation above the suspended ceiling.

Egremont Methodist Church Net Zero Policy

We support the national Methodist target by aspiring to become a net zero local church by 2030, in line with the national Methodist 'Action for Hope' programme.

In achieving net zero, we emphasise reduction of emissions as being more valuable than offsetting.

Outline Plan for The Meeting Place

Currently our biggest contribution to carbon dioxide emissions is from burning gas in our boiler, which is already over 11 years old, and will probably fail by 2030. It is therefore proposed that **our future heating should be based on 'heat pump' technology, or some other technology that is not based on burning fossil fuels**. As this would probably take some time to install, it's important to plan for the eventuality of the boiler failing. If the boiler does not fail by 2030, we will move to a 'green gas' tariff (we could do this earlier if agreed, the additional cost currently being £800 per year).

We have a **zero-emission electricity tariff**, and this type of tariff should be retained, but it likely would be even better to install **solar panels on the south-facing roof** (or integrate them into the roof). This may best be done when the roof itself needs replacing. Installation of battery storage may also be appropriate at the same time.

We will seek to have an '**Eco/Energy Audit**' to identify improvements. This would also enable funding of any improvements.

We will continue to participate in the Eco Church scheme, and we will aim to progress from bronze towards the silver award. This will encourage us to consider all our sources of carbon dioxide emissions, including transport. It will also encourage greater awareness amongst church members of the importance of net zero.

On an annual basis we will complete the [net-carbon-zero-checklist](#) issued by the Methodist Church, and we will take appropriate action. We will also **report to the Church Council annually** about progress and plans.

Responsibilities

Our **Eco Church group** will take an overview of our net zero policy and progress with the outline plan. In addition, we all have a responsibility to reduce our personal carbon footprints.