

Action for Hope Grants

The District has received £184,674 from the Connexion to use to work towards net zero goals and other aims in caring for creation.

These funds will be awarded to circuits and churches using the current application processes which may be found in the District Grants policy document at <https://www.northamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk/lib/northampton-district-grants-policy-june-2023-F792560.pdf>

In addition to the requirements set out in that document, applications will also need to demonstrate that the church or circuit meets the following criteria.

A circuit will be eligible for a grant if:

1. The circuit has a Mission Action Plan which includes a consideration of creation care and climate justice.
2. The circuit is registered with Eco Church. This is free to do and does not require a particular 'standard' to have been reached. It is the first step on this journey.
3. The circuit agrees to share the story of their improvements with the District (and the broader Connexion as appropriate) to inspire others.
4. 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.

A church will be eligible for a grant if:

1. The church has a Mission Action Plan which includes a consideration of creation care and climate justice.
2. The proposal is consistent with the Circuit Mission Action Plan.
3. The church is registered with Eco Church. 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 church agrees to share the story of their improvements with the District (and the broader Connexion as appropriate) to inspire others.
 - *It isn't the responsibility of the church to actively share the story, the onus is on the District and/or Connexional Communications Team if they wish to share the story.*
4. 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.
 - *360Carbon.org 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.*
 - *The AfH Implementation Officer is working with a group of District Property Secretaries to develop guidance for energy audits. See <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/property/net-zero-carbon/energy-audits/> for the latest guidance.*