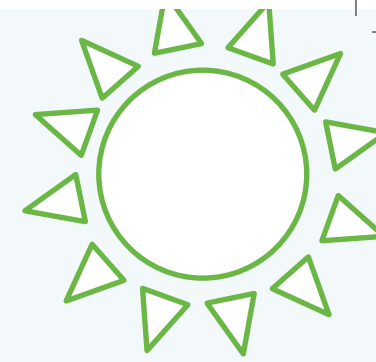


# EcoChurch Southwest

Working in partnership for a low carbon future



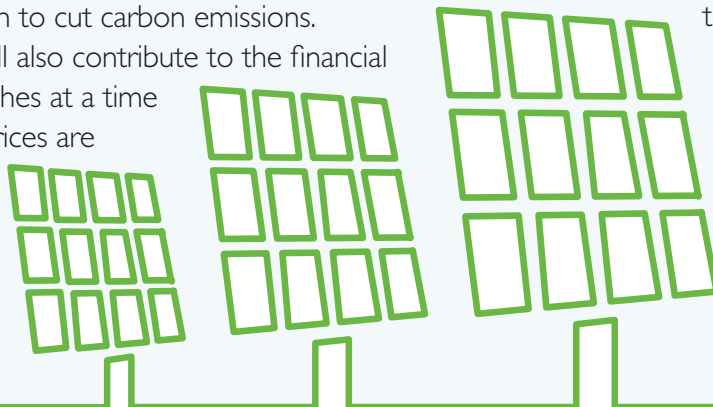
## Greener power for churches

Cutting the human effect on climate change is a vital part of our responsibility as Christians. The Dioceses of Bath and Wells, Exeter and Gloucester are offering a new scheme to help churches cut energy use and convert to renewable energy sources. We are working with renewable energy supplier, Ecotricity.

The scheme supports churches in fitting solar photovoltaic (PV) panels to the roofs of their buildings. These panels generate electricity from the sun's energy. Each Diocesan Board of Finance offers low-interest loans (fixed rate of four per cent) to parishes to fund the installation.

We believe that developing renewable energy generation will help support the national Church of England's plan to cut carbon emissions.

The scheme will also contribute to the financial security of parishes at a time when energy prices are predicted to rise significantly.



## Benchmarking greener churches

If your church signs up, you will become part of a new regional benchmarking scheme. This scheme will assess the use of your buildings for energy and community activity and worship. As part of this scheme you will record your electricity consumption and publicise the project as an example of good practice. Members will also be asked to promote green energy to their congregations and encourage them to invest in green energy.

You will need to switch your church's electricity supply to our partners, Ecotricity. We advise that this is done before the installation and as soon as planning approval is given. The process of switching is simple. It takes around three weeks and you will be guided through the process.

If your church and other properties would like to switch to Ecotricity, call 0845 230 6102, mention the diocese you come from and the staff will make the arrangements for you.

## Why is it important?

God created life on earth and asked us to pass on the fullness of creation to future generations. Light from the sun gives energy that sustains life. We are now able to harness that energy to serve our own power needs and feed excess back into the national grid. By creating surplus green energy, we are able to contribute to a more sustainable system of power which can be used by all. We are taking God's gift of energy and offering it back to his people in a way that does not damage the environment.

## How does it work?

You can find a basic outline of the process you will need to follow over the page...

