

Methodist Church Solar Proposal

"Are you interested in solar power, but don't have all the funds to install it?"

At One Church, 100 Uses (1C100U), we are interested in the potential benefits that are provided by renewable energy for churches.

We have developed a model that will provide a modest financial return through energy savings and the Feed-in Tariff (FiT), and show churches to be 'doing their bit' to reduce their CO₂ footprint.

To test our model, a charitable foundation has agreed in principle to match-fund 50% of the total costs for churches interested in taking part in a pilot programme.

The match funds would be issued as a loan at 3% interest p.a. (below the current rate of inflation [March 2012]). Thanks to the FiT payments being linked to the Retail Price Index (RPI), and the patient nature of the funding, we can link the finance payments to RPI too.

This means that the church will make a surplus of roughly £1000 p.a. from year 1 onwards, please see the [financial models](#)¹.

In effect, churches interested in installing solar panels will have to raise only half as much capital.

The Government have stipulated that the panels must feed in to a building with an energy efficiency (EPC) rating of 'D' or above.

Churches do not traditionally have good energy efficiency, but these ratings are available for parts of buildings too.

So, for example, if there is a church hall that is not heated from a central boiler but has a separate supply, it may have a kitchen that has an EPC of 'D' or higher. Or perhaps there might be a meeting room with its own heating system that would be appropriate too.

We are estimating that a typical 10kWp installation would cost in the region of £20,000, which would be funded 50% by the loan and 50% by you.

If you have a South to Southeast-facing roof, potentially an internal space which has an EPC of D or higher, the ability to match the charitable funds, and your church is not listed, or the proposed roof is not clearly visible, then you are eligible for this great opportunity.

One Church, 100 Uses (1C100U) will be happy to attend one meeting to discuss, following which you will need to decide if this is right for you.

We'll work on a first come, first served basis, and only 5 spaces are available for this pilot.

If you are interested complete this short proforma and email Joe Fraser at j.fraser@onechurch100uses.org.

¹ The FiT rates depend upon the take-up of solar panels across the UK every six months. The financial models take this into consideration, and show the current rate (pre-July 2012), and the possible three rates that could be put in place. The church makes a surplus of at least £1000 p.a. in each of these scenarios.

