

## Green Electricity

To help protect the environment, one of the best things you can do is to change the electricity tariff of your home or business to a 'Green Tariff'. This means that your electricity supplier will buy enough electricity from renewable sources to offset any electricity consumed in your home/business.

### ***What type of energy is used?***

These renewable sources include wind farms, hydroelectric dams, landfill gas, biomass schemes (chicken litter, farm biogas, energy crops etc) along with small-scale solar, wind and hydro systems, etc. These sources do not produce carbon dioxide when they are used to generate electricity and will therefore help in reducing climate change.

From April 2002 all electricity suppliers must obtain at least 3% of their electricity from renewable resources (rising to 10% by 2010). By changing to a 'green' tariff you are indicating to your supplier that you care about the effect that electricity generation has on the environment. The more people who request electricity generated in this way the more pressure is put on suppliers to buy from and/or fund renewable sources.

### ***What Companies are there?***

Some green electricity suppliers are much 'greener' than others i.e. voluntarily obtain a greater proportion of their electricity from a renewable source and are more careful where they buy their non-green electricity. However, any 'green' tariff is better than a 'non-green' one. Prices will also vary, so it is worthwhile shopping around. Some companies' green tariffs cost the same as non-green but in general, most green tariffs are slightly more expensive (around 1p extra per unit) but even then this is unlikely to add up to more than £1 per week extra to your electricity bills.

### ***What can I save?***

If you have a business and use larger amounts of electricity, a 'green tariff' also saves you money in that you would be exempt from the Climate Change Levy which currently costs you an additional 0.43p per kilowatt hour (kWh) + VAT.

### ***Selling***

If you generate electricity from a renewable source e.g. wind turbine, photovoltaic (pv) panels or small-scale hydroelectric, you can sell it to the national grid via one of the electricity providers. In addition, you can also sell the Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs), which certify that your electricity comes from renewable sources. As with buying electricity, the price paid will vary with utility company. The amount you are being paid will be based on the number of kWhs of electricity generated. If you use some of the electricity you produce, it will be free and any you don't use can be exported to the grid. Some schemes only pay for electricity & ROCs that are exported. Others just buy the ROCs but that includes all that is generated (including any you may use). As this can make a difference of up to 50% in the value of electricity, it is worth estimating how much you might use. Currently 'Good Energy' appears to pay the most for renewable electricity however it is recommended that you get several quotes.

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**SOME ELECTRICITY COMPANIES PROVIDING A 'GREEN' TARIFF**  
**# Expected annual bill based on an annual consumption of 3,300Kwh – and payment by monthly direct debit - prices checked 28/01/2008**

Company	Tariff	Bill#	Fuel Mix 2006-2007 #		
			Fuel	% supplied	% national average
e-on	Go green	£398	coal	42.0%	35.8%
			natural gas	36.7%	38.8%
			nuclear	14.2%	18.6%
			renewable	3.6%	4.7%
			other	3.5%	2.1%
Ecotricity	New Energy	£397	coal	23.8%	35.8%
			natural gas	22.8%	38.8%
			nuclear	25.9%	18.6%
			renewable	24.1%	4.7%
			other	3.3%	2.1%
Ecotricity	New Energy Plus	£414	coal	23.8%	35.8%
			natural gas	22.8%	38.8%
			nuclear	25.9%	18.6%
			renewable	24.1%	4.7%
			other	3.3%	2.1%
Good Energy Ltd www.good-energy.co.uk 0845 456 1640	Good Energy	£457	coal	0.0%	35.8%
			natural gas	0.0%	38.8%
			nuclear	0.0%	18.6%
			renewable	100.0%	4.7%
			other	0.0%	2.1%
Scottish and Southern Energy www.southern-electric.co.uk 0800 0288 552	RSPB Energy	£410	coal	30.6%	35.8%
			natural gas	57.8%	38.8%
			nuclear	0.8%	18.6%
			renewable	10.2%	4.7%
			other	0.6%	2.1%
Utilita	Planet saver		coal	33.0%	35.2%
			natural gas	39.0%	36.8%
			nuclear	21.0%	20.9%
			renewable	4.0%	4.2%
			other	3.0%	2.9%

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Company	Tariff	Bill#	Fuel Mix 2006-2007 #		
			Fuel	% supplied	% national average
Green Energy UK. www.greenelectricity.org.uk 0845 456 9550	Green Energy 100	£453	coal	0.0%	35.8%
			natural gas	68.0%	38.8%
			nuclear	0.0%	18.6%
			renewable	32.0%	4.7%
			other	0.0%	2.1%
Green Energy UK. www.greenelectricity.org.uk 0845 456 9550	Green Energy +10	£420	coal	0.0%	35.8%
			natural gas	68.0%	38.8%
			nuclear	0.0%	18.6%
			renewable	32.0%	4.7%
			other	0.0%	2.1%
Scottish Power & Manweb http://www.scottishpower.co.uk/ 0800 027 7776	Green Energy H <sub>2</sub> O	£323	coal	55.2%	35.8%
			natural gas	36.7%	38.8%
			nuclear	1.0%	18.6%
			renewable	6.8%	4.7%
			other	0.3%	2.1%
EDF	Green Tariff	£403	coal	47.0%	35.8%
			natural gas	29.0%	38.8%
			nuclear	17.0%	18.6%
			renewable	5.0%	4.7%
			other	2.0%	2.1%
N-power www.npower.com 0845 120 2755	Juice	£418	coal	44.0%	35.8%
			natural gas	37.0%	38.8%
			nuclear	13.0%	18.6%
			renewable	3.0%	4.7%
			other	3.0%	2.1%

# figures taken from <http://www.greenelectricity.org>

### Comparing Prices

Comparisons can be found at:

<http://www.greenelectricity.org/>

<http://www.greenprices.com/uk/pricesbox.asp>

<http://www.cornwallswitch.org/> - 0845 65 22 333

<http://www.energylinx.co.uk>

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