



the  
**GREAT SWITCH**  
for creation



# A simple guide to switching to a green tariff

## WHY SHOULD WE SWITCH?

The global climate emergency is a crisis for our world. Together, we can act in faith, taking small but powerful steps to help restore God's creation.

By switching to a green electricity tariff, your church will play an important part in reducing the Church of England's overall carbon emissions - helping lead the way towards a cleaner, fairer future for all.

## HOW CAN WE SWITCH?

### 1. Check your energy bills

- Find out how many units of energy your building has used annually, by calculating the difference between two bills, 12 months apart. Do this via your monthly bills, or using your supplier's app.
- Find out if you are in contract and/or have exit fees.

### 2. Choose a supplier

- Go to [Parish Energy](#) to switch your energy to its green tariff, or;
- Get 2-3 quotes from the list outlined below, by going on each suppliers' website, entering your details, and asking for a quote

### 3. SWITCH!

Decide on a tariff and switch! The supplier – or Parish Energy – will do the rest. Also, make sure to celebrate and share that you've switched!

## WHAT IS PARISH ENERGY?

Parish Energy is managed by [Parish Buying](#). It uses the bulk buying power of the Church of England to obtain competitive prices for your gas and electricity.

The Parish Energy electricity tariff aligns with our green tariff definition, allowing you to switch hassle-free.



# WHO SHOULD WE SWITCH TO?

We have conducted rigorous research into which suppliers meet our low carbon and ethical criteria, divided into three key categories<sup>2</sup>. While we are always striving for the greenest option, we encourage you to make decisions based on what makes the most sense for your church:

<sup>2</sup>Read the full detail behind our definition [here](#).

## GREEN ELECTRICITY TARIFFS

| DEFINITIONS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | SUPPLIERS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| <p><b>BEST</b><br/>Electricity is supplied directly from 100% UK-based renewable energy sources, backed by the relevant energy certificates. The supplier and their parent company:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Has no investment in fossil fuels</li><li>◦ Transparently report their emissions</li><li>◦ Have no evidence of ethical non-compliance</li><li>◦ Is working to support wider decarbonisation</li></ul>                                                             | <p>No supplier currently meets the best criteria. This is an aspirational target because we believe the energy market should – and can – do better for people and the planet. We will continue to analyse suppliers over the coming years to push them to achieve the highest standards.</p> |
| <p><b>BETTER</b><br/>Electricity is supplied by 100% renewable energy sources, but 50% of this is more traceable than the other 50%. All sources are backed by the relevant energy certificates. The supplier and their parent company:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Has no investment in fossil fuels</li><li>◦ Transparently report their emissions</li><li>◦ Have no evidence of ethical non-compliance</li><li>◦ Is working to support wider decarbonisation</li></ul>         | <p>Better green electricity suppliers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Ecotricity</li><li>▪ Good Energy</li><li>▪ Octopus Energy</li><li>▪ Ovo</li><li>▪ Parish Energy (using Ecotricity)</li><li>▪ Smartest Energy</li><li>▪ SSE</li><li>▪ 100 Green</li></ul>                  |
| <p><b>BASIC</b><br/>Electricity is supplied by 100% renewable energy sources, but 10% of this is more traceable than the other 90%. All sources are backed by the relevant energy certificates. The supplier and their parent company:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Has no new fossil fuel investments planned</li><li>◦ Transparently report their emissions</li><li>◦ Have no evidence of ethical non-compliance</li><li>◦ Is working to support wider decarbonisation</li></ul> | <p>Basic green electricity suppliers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ So Energy</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## GREEN GAS TARIFFS

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| <p><b>BASIC</b><br/>The most sustainable energy procurement strategy would exclude the use of gas entirely.</p> <p>We recommend focusing investment on reducing energy use and improving building efficiency, which will have a much greater impact on both emissions and energy costs</p> <p>However, replacing gas boilers with electric heating is often a complex project that takes time and many churches will continue to use gas (and may prefer to choose green gas tariffs) while they transition to NZC.</p> | <p>Basic green gas suppliers:<br/><i>(100% biomethane produced in the UK from renewable sources, backed by Green Gas Certificates)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 100 Green</li></ul> |
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WATCH OUR  
ANIMATION  
TO FIND  
OUT MORE



Imagine the impact we could make if we all switched to a green tariff...for our children, our grand- children, for everyone in every nation on God’s beautiful earth.

Joy, Churchwarden  
St. Luke’s Church, West Holloway



the  
**GREAT SWITCH**  
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JOIN US. MAKE THE SWITCH.

[churchofengland.org/the-great-switch](https://churchofengland.org/the-great-switch)