

OUR NEWS

good energy



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A message from Juliet

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges we face in delivering a future society that will be sustainable and a place we want our children and the next generation to live in.

At Good Energy, our purpose has always been to address the challenges society faces on climate change through finding solutions that everyone can get involved with. To make sure that we can communicate this clearly we have developed the following narrative:

☺ Our purpose is to power the choice of a cleaner, greener future together. ☺

For me, you need all the elements of our purpose to succeed. We need technologies that find new ways to deliver the wants of our society and that don't damage our future. We need to make this a choice where everyone has the option to choose a cleaner world. Doing it alone won't work - we need to work with all aspects of society, businesses, scientists, policy makers and customers of energy to make a real difference.

In the 18 years since I founded Good Energy, the energy industry has come a long way. Renewables are now providing almost 25% of the UK's electricity and April 2017 saw the first coal-free day in Britain since the industrial revolution.

Good Energy supports its customers in becoming part of the revolution in energy, generating power, using local power and being part of an energy system that can balance itself in people's homes and businesses. With the developments in renewables, as well as clean technologies like batteries, electric vehicles and smart products, this future is within our grasp.

I feel optimistic about the future. The technologies to solve society's problems are within our reach. We now need to harness them and engage with society in a way that can really make a difference to our future.



Juliet Davenport

Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)





From left to right: Owolabi, Gabbi and Tolu



Tolu's turnips

Giving gardening a go

UPDATE

Earlier this year, we gave you the chance to submit your ideas for a local community project - with the winner receiving £500 to make their project a reality.

You then got the opportunity to choose the winner: the wonderful Food at the Triangle project in inner-city London. Inspired by a feeling that many city-based children have little knowledge about where their fruits and vegetables come from, our winner, Juliet Hobday, decided to open a little urban garden to give local children the chance to plant, grow, pick and cook their own vegetables.

Juliet used the money to buy tools, compost, bulbs, fruit bushes, seeds and cooking facilities - and has recently been in touch to tell us how the project is getting on.

After a long discussion about what to plant - with apples, tomatoes, beans, courgettes and even chicken and chips suggested - here's Owolabi and Tolu thoroughly enjoying their new garden.

Tolu has planted turnips within her tyre; Owolabi decided on swede; and Gabbi went for carrots. The children have taken their watering duties very seriously.

In case you missed the story in our last update, here's more:

www.goodenergy.co.uk/tcp

Each time your kettle boils...

As a Good Energy customer, there are thousands of uniquely personal stories powering the energy you use at home.

We don't think it's good for the environment for energy to travel thousands of miles from sources outside the UK. We do our best to ensure you're never too far from one of our many local renewable generators. It's their stories that give you the power to choose energy from around the corner rather than across the world.

Taff Bargoed: Water wheels in South Wales

Based at the site of a former mine, Taff Bargoed's hydro turbine began as a fundraising source for the local sports clubs and Friends of the Park group.

The construction of the hydro turbine finished in May 2016 and is estimated to generate an impressive 480MW a year.

Cannington Enterprises: Somerset's Bio-methane

A family business from the start, the owners of Cannington have farmed in Somerset for more than 100 years.

Today, they source food waste from across the West Country to produce a 98% bio-methane gas. They then convert the rest into organic fertiliser for their farmland.

Tongue Gill: The Lake District's 'greenest' piece of land

The river Tongue Gill was originally licensed for tap water. When a bug was found in the water, this wasn't possible anymore.

The owners, active conservationists, took the massive decision to sell their 17th Century farm building and cottages to fund a 100kW hydro site. Today it's the greenest piece of land in the Lake District!

www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/news/an-invitation-to-visit-the-lake-districts-greenest-piece-of-land

Brixton Energy: Solar Panels on top of a London estate

Brixton Energy is the UK's first inner-city, community-owned renewable energy project.

The organisation places solar panels on the roofs of community buildings across South London, giving locals a chance to take renewable power into their own hands.

How green is 'green' really?

These days many energy suppliers offer 'green' tariffs, some much cheaper than others. We're often asked to confirm the difference between our tariffs and these other 'green' tariffs. Well, here goes!



Buying and selling 'greenness'

- 1 OFGEM (the industry regulator) issues one certificate, called a REGO*, per 1000 units of renewable electricity generated.
- 2 When suppliers buy electricity from renewable generators, they can also buy these REGO certificates for a fixed price.
- 3 Suppliers send their REGO certificates to OFGEM each year to show how much of their electricity comes from renewables.

All of the above is great but there's something else you need to know...



So, what is greenwashing?

Energy companies don't actually need to buy renewable electricity to buy REGO certificates. In fact, they can buy power from anywhere they want - coal, oil, you name it. As long as they buy enough REGOs to match the electricity they've bought, they can still claim their electricity is renewable.

We're against greenwashing which is why over the course of the year, for every unit of electricity our customers use, we commit to buying a unit of electricity directly from a renewable generator. This means you can be confident the electricity we buy really is 100% renewable.

See our website at goodenergy.co.uk/blog for more information on greenwashing.

* Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO)

Renewable electricity – myth busting

At Good Energy, we see a lot of misinformation being thrown around, so we thought we'd do our best to bust some of the renewable energy myths that are out there.

STATEMENT

WHY?



**You can be sure
Good Energy always
supplies 100%
renewable electricity**

Whilst we can't run wires from our generation sources directly to our customers' homes, we DO match all the electricity our customers use with electricity from renewables.



**Having solar panels
can make your
electricity meter
run backwards**

This actually can happen but shouldn't. It's normally the result of a faulty or non-compatible meter - the company installing should check this.



**Wind turbines aren't
100% efficient**

It's true wind turbines can't extract all the power from the wind but coal stations can't extract all the energy from coal either. Consider that the fuel costs nothing, we live in a windy country, turbines operate about 95% of the time, and need hardly any maintenance!

See our website at goodenergy.co.uk/rem for more renewable energy truths.

Imagining the future of renewable energy in the UK

Looking to the future has always been part of Good Energy's DNA.

To achieve our purpose of a cleaner, greener future, it's not enough to think about a five year plan. We're thinking about the world in which we want to live in twenty, thirty or one hundred years from now.

We believe it's the unforeseen innovations and improvements in batteries and transport, creative ways of coming together and sharing what we have, and new ways of combining technology that will help get us there, and help leave a better world behind for future generations to enjoy.

See our website at goodenergy.co.uk/blog for more recent stories.

 goodenergy.co.uk

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