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Charity No. 1159816

Energy Advice Drop In
The Wellbeing Centre
Church Stretton
Thursday's 10.00 – 12.00



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Is your energy supplier really that green?

The UK is now sometimes producing more power from clean energy than from fossil fuels. Carbon free electricity includes that generated from nuclear and renewables. Renewables includes electricity from wind, wave, hydro, solar and biomass. In the third quarter of 2023, 44.5% of our electricity came from renewables and it continues to rise.

Many energy companies now offer a “green tariff” which means that some or all of the electricity is **matched** by purchases of renewable energy. However some “green tariffs” are not as green as they may appear.

For every 1 MWh of renewable electricity from a truly renewable source the energy regulator (Ofgem) issues a certificate known as a REGO [Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin]. The energy generator makes its money by either selling the renewable electricity it produces or selling the REGO certificate. Some energy suppliers will only buy the actual renewable electricity; others will buy the REGO to make it appear the power they supply to you is greener than it actually is.

There are to date some 16 energy companies offering 100% green electricity including:

Good Energy (<https://www.goodenergy.co.uk/our-energy/>)

Green Energy UK (<https://www.greenenergyuk.com/OurEnergy>)

Ecotricity (<https://www.ecotricity.co.uk/about-ecotricity/our-eco-credentials/our-environmental-footprint>)

Octopus Energy <https://octopus.energy/>

Some suppliers however who appear to offer a “green” tariff are actually supplying only a % of electricity from a truly renewable source and make up the rest by buying the REGO certificates created by the renewable generators. They source the rest of the actual electricity from fossil fuel generation.

Suppliers should clearly list the mix of the electricity they supply ... some tariffs are greener than others and that green element of the supply can also include electricity from nuclear generation.

This is a good example of “greenwash.”

By following the link below it is possible to see in real time the % of coal, gas, oil, nuclear and renewable energy generation for each energy supplier. This is useful to enable customers to see just how “green” their supplier really is.

<http://electricityinfo.org/real-time-fuel-mix-and-carbon-intensity-methodology/>

Caution - Please Read this:

Our Advice Note has been carefully prepared and is, as far as we know, accurate at the date of publication. However, things change very fast in the world of technology and in government schemes. Sometimes parts of Advice Notes become outdated and may not offer best advice very soon after publication. We do our best to keep them up to date with the limited resources we have. Furthermore, our advice may not be appropriate for your particular circumstances. We advise that you get advice from a relevant expert before making changes. We may be able to offer further advice or make suggestions on who to contact if you get in touch with us. We are not technical experts but have many years of offering common sense advice and we recommend you should not rely on our Advice Note alone for making decisions. The national advice centre Energy Savings Trust is a good source of information.

See <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/>