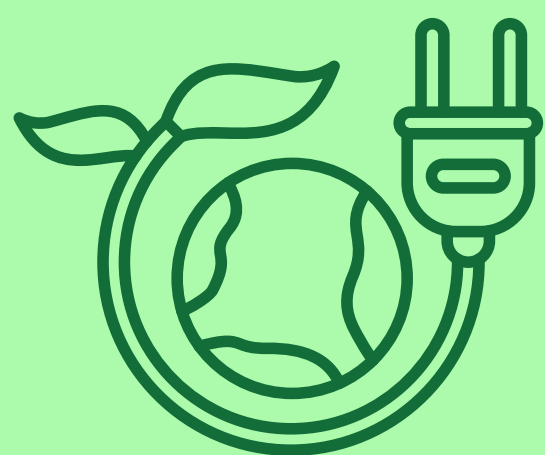


1

CHOOSE A GREEN ENERGY SUPPLIER

Some electricity tariffs are greener than others! Many suppliers offer a green tariff, which means that your money goes towards renewable electricity and gas. And some suppliers own or are directly linked with green generation, which means that your money goes directly to the generators themselves.

The Energy Saving Trust have published a report explaining the differences between green tariffs, and where they source their energy. It explains that 'the greenest tariffs' use renewable electricity directly from generators, which provides a clear benefit to the UK renewable industry. Other tariffs will use renewable energy guarantee of origin (REGO) certificates on the open market, and this benefit is less clear.



VIEW THE ENERGY SAVING TRUST'S REPORT HERE:



WHAT IS THE RIGHT TARIFF FOR YOU?

Swapping energy supplier has been made easier in recent years - just contact the supplier you want to move to, and they will manage the process.

Note that the price you pay for energy will be dependent on your tariff, and while green tariffs are not always more expensive, you should make sure you check and choose the right tariff for you, as well as the planet! You can use a price comparison website to help you make a decision.

If you have an electric vehicle or battery storage, you might want to select a dedicated EV tariff, or time of use tariff, offered by many suppliers. These tariffs are much cheaper for energy you use overnight, when you can programme your dishwasher, washing machine, or other high load appliances as well as your car or battery to charge.



2

GENERATE YOUR OWN

If you are able to, installing renewable generation equipment like solar panels will give you access to your own renewable electricity.

How do you know if solar panels are right for you?:

- **Access** to a roof that you own, which gets the sun - so it cannot be significantly shaded or north facing (anything from east to west facing is suitable).
- **Affordability**, the up-front investment needed for solar panels can be significant, but you will save money on your bills over time. The payback times are reducing as the cost of energy is increasing.

The Energy Savings Trust has good advice about how to go about installing solar panels.

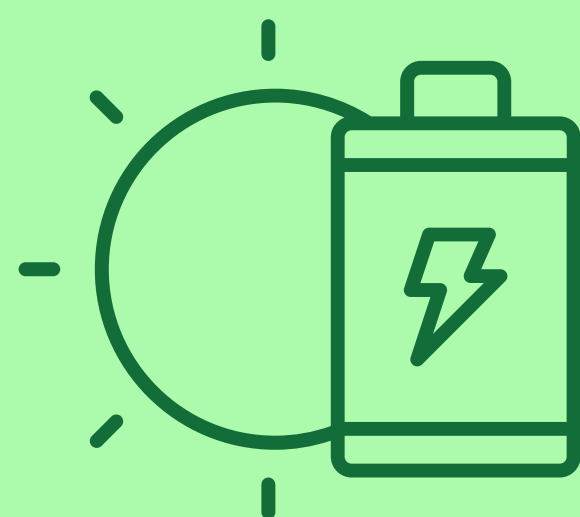
You could also consider talking to someone with solar panels. If you don't know any, ask the Energy team at ZERO - **email** energy@zerocarbonguildford.org

USE THE ENERGY YOU GENERATE

You will get the most benefit from your solar panels if you change how you use energy at the same time. Here are some tips:

- **Reduce your energy consumption:** It is tempting to see energy as free and green, and many people actually increase consumption of energy when they get solar panels! But energy still has a financial and carbon cost, and any energy you save may be used to replace fossil fuel energy on the grid. So you should still try to be as efficient as possible!
- **Move use of large appliances to when it is sunny:** do your washing, run your dishwasher, and cook your main meals when it is sunny (as much as possible!)
- **Consider an electric vehicle**

Any surplus energy which you generate but don't use will contribute to decarbonising the grid - so it is still doing some good! You can receive payment for the exported energy under the "Smart Export Guarantee" (SEG) Scheme if your solar array is less than 5MW.



VIEW THE ENERGY SAVING TRUST'S ADVICE ON SOLAR PANELS HERE:



3

WHAT IS COMMUNITY ENERGY?

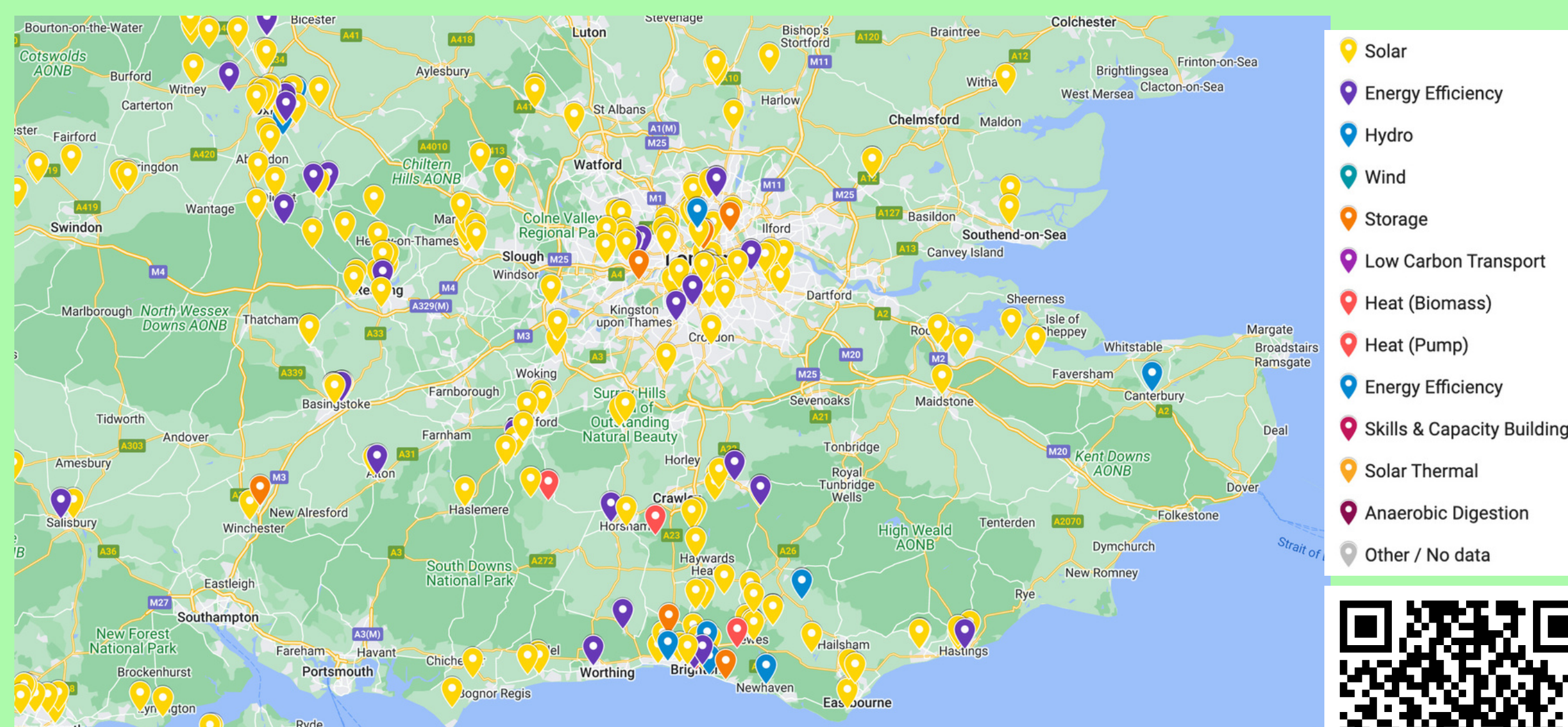
Community energy describes collective action to reduce, purchase, manage and generate energy, focusing on local benefits, decarbonisation and saving money.

There are many examples of community energy projects across the UK, with at least 5000 community groups undertaking energy initiatives in the last five years.

Examples of community energy projects include:

- Community-owned renewable electricity installations such as solar panels or wind turbines.
- Members of the community jointly switching to a renewable heat source such as a heat pump or biomass boiler.
- A community group supporting energy saving measures such as the installation of insulation.
- Collective switching of electricity or gas suppliers.

EXISTING COMMUNITY ENERGY PROJECTS



LEARN MORE ABOUT COMMUNITY ENERGY PROJECTS IN ENGLAND HERE:

