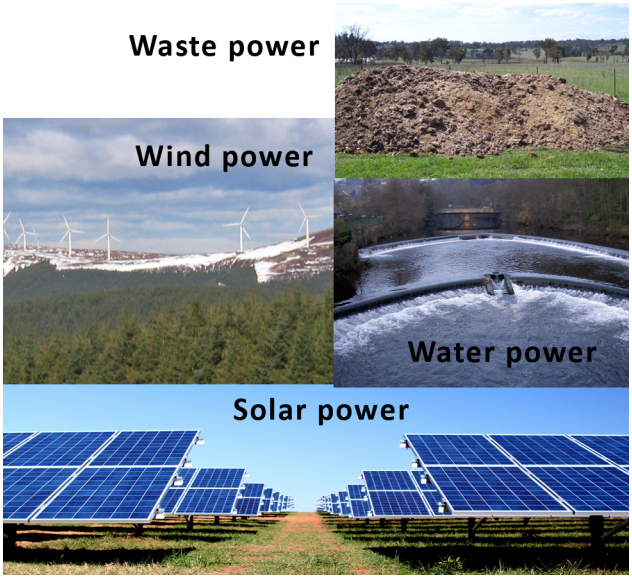
We love Green Energy

How much more will 100% green electricity cost me?		
Low use	Medium use	High use
12p/day	20p/day	30p/day

These costs were obtained by comparing a current cheap deal from Npower with the current (Feb 2016) cheapest 100% green tariff from the table overleaf. Low medium and high use are as defined by OFGEM: 2000kWh/year, 31000 kWh/year and 4600 kWh/year

What is green energy?
Green electricity is low carbon energy using our local resources – not just the sun, the wind and the rain but also waste from food or agriculture such as chicken litter or cow slurry.



Why should I buy green electricity?

- **1/4 of our energy related carbon emissions come from generating electricity**. Green electricity produces almost none so we can slash our emissions by a quarter by switching.
- **Energy suppliers will only invest in renewable energy if we ask for it.** (Previously, under the Renewables Obligation scheme they had to ensure an increasing proportion of their electricity came from renewable sources but those rules have been scrapped.)
- **Green electricity does not rely on fuel imported from other countries**, so is unaffected by political instability abroad, or fluctuating exchange rates.
- **Green energy customers are happy customers**. In the Which? magazine customers satisfaction survey 2016 the top three companies were green energy suppliers: Ovo Energy, Good Energy and Ecotricity http://switch.which.co.uk/energy-suppliers/energy-companies-rated.html
- **You won't be alone**. Green energy suppliers are small but growing fast. Ecotricity's customer base grew by 76% last year. OVO energy tripled – they now have 1.8% of the UK market.

When you buy green electricity it comes from the grid just as before but you know that for every unit of electricity you use there is a unit of green electricity supplied.

Where can I buy 100% green electricity?
The big six don't do it but there are a number of smaller companies offering green electricity tariffs including the three in the table overleaf. These are listed in order of size. All offer dual fuel or electricity only.

Green energy supplier	Reasons to switch	Current tariffs*
Ovo Energy www.ovoenergy.com 500,000 customers as of September 2015 (1.8% share) 200% growth in one year.	uSwitch Suppliers of the year 2015 Ovo energy pays you 3% interest when your account is in credit. OVO foundation supports inspiring organisations with smart ideas that give your people a better future. OVO partners with Cool Earth to protect rainforest in South America.	Green Energy (100% green) 12.8p/kWh + 28.8p/day Better Energy (33%** green) 10.87p/kWh + 28.8p/day
Ecotricity **https://www.ecotricity.co.uk/** 150,000 customers: 76% growth in one year Also supplies 5% green gas.	A not-for-dividend company: all profits are invested. As well as investing directly in renewable energy sources, Ecotricity supports renewable energy and transport research and development.	100% Green 13.6p/kWh + 27.4p/day
Good Energy www.goodenergy.co.uk 55,000 electricity customers as of June 2015 – 20% growth	Company of the Year at 2015 Business Green Awards. Chosen supplier for the 38 degrees Clean Energy Switch in 2015.	100% Green. 13.8p/kWh + 24.5p/day

* (as of Feb 2015) per unit charge p/kWh and standing charge p/day. These are likely to vary. Always check first before switching.

** UK average is 19% renewable.

How do I switch?

All you have to do is contact the company you have chosen and tell them that you want to switch. They will contact your current supplier who will ask you to confirm that is really what you want.

- If you owe your current supplier some money you will need to pay that off.
- If you are in credit they will return this money to you.
- If you have signed up for a minimum term contract there may be a penalty for switching before that is finished.

See also http://switch.which.co.uk/energy-advice/guide-to-switching-supplier.html

Why is green energy more expensive?

Over time, renewable energy from the wind, rain and sun can work out cheaper than fossil fuels. However, all the costs are up front and investors don't like to wait 20 years to get their money back. So in the short term, to get it up and running, renewable energy is usually a bit more expensive. However, once they up, running costs are low because there is no fuel to buy.

Large wind farms and solar farms are cheaper to build than lots of little ones. When you choose green electricity you are creating demand for renewables on the sort of scale that can really make a difference – and bring the prices down.