

Green Living

The third leaflet in a series produced in September-November 2021 by the Green Living groups of Avenue St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Southampton, and its ecumenical partners, from material in *The Dorset Green Living Guide* and current versions of related websites
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Energy

Helping the climate through changing to renewable sources of energy

In the last 10 years, the proportion of electricity generated from renewable fuels has more than doubled, from under 20% to over 40%, overtaking coal and nuclear in 2015, and overtaking gas in 2020.

Ethical Consumer has said, "... However we are missing nearly all our targets ... Consumers thus need to take more of the lead."

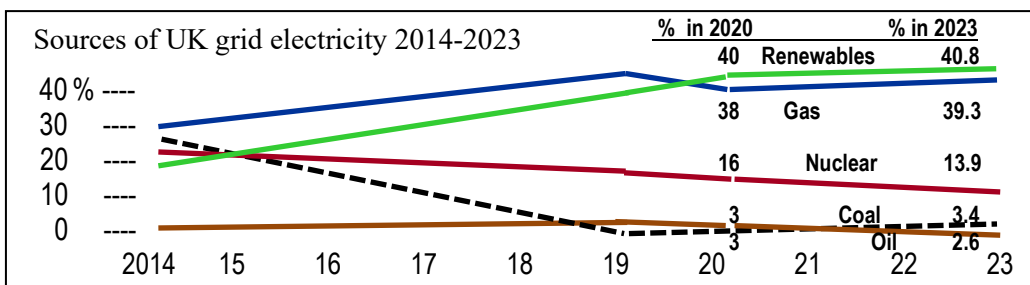
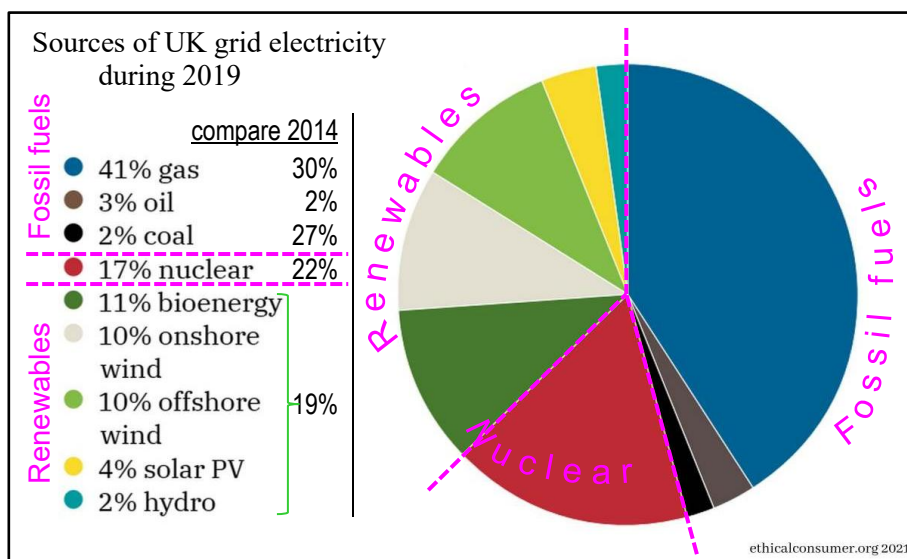


Diagram from <https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/energy/shopping-guide/energy-suppliers>
with data from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fuel-mix-disclosure-data-table>

Are you part of these trends? What more could you do?

- Urge the government to rigorously prioritise renewables in energy policy?
- Urge your existing energy provider to use renewable sources instead of fossil fuels?
- Switch to a renewable energy provider? – see more about this on page 2

And your home:

Was it changed from coal fires to oil- or gas-fired central heating some years ago?

Does the boiler need replacement? If so, could you change to a system using renewable energy?

For information, visit <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home/heating-your-home/> or

<https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/energy>

Could you generate renewable energy at your home?

For guidance on ground-source or air-source heat pumps, solar water heating, solar electricity, and more, see <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home/generating-renewable-energy/>

Principles for selecting a provider of renewable energy

The Energy Saving Trust <https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/energy/shopping-guide/energy-suppliers> updated in February 2023, says:

See this website for more information

"The important thing is not whether a company can legally claim to be providing 100% renewable energy, but whether it actually is making any meaningful contribution to renewable capacity building ...

- building renewables themselves, **or** buying renewable electricity through 'power purchase agreements' (PPAs), which give generators security and cover 100% of customers' electricity use.
- commit to not building any more fossil fuelled plants.

We awarded positive product sustainability marks to the companies that did this. Those that passed were Ecotricity, Good Energy and 100Green, Octopus Energy (now including Shell Energy), Ripple, Co-op Energy, Younity."

Can we achieve the net zero targets by 2050?

Tick Zero, led by Prof. Julian Allwood of Cambridge University, launched a series of six short (about 10 minutes) films in 2022 "to give a clear, balanced and evidence-based view on the steps we need to take together to mitigate climate change."

Here are two diagrams from film 4, as examples:

- On the right:* Realistic increases in renewable energy by 2050 may cover only half the likely needs unless action is taken to reduce the energy needed.
- Below:* Ways to reduce enough of the energy usage in buildings, through technologies already available, if fully implemented by corporate, public and personal decisions.

See the films at <https://tickzero.com/watch-the-films/>

