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AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

Green Energy Suppliers

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Churches should take the lead in the green energy revolution. A Rocha UK has been encouraging churches to continue to take a lead in promoting alternative energy.

'Churches and communities can still invest in renewables, disinvest in fossil fuels and persuade their MPs to take a strong line on climate,' said Conservation Director Andy Lester.

Hundreds of churches are already taking this kind of action – some as part of the Eco Church scheme. They are conducting their own green audits, forming environmental groups, working out their ecological footprint and refitting their buildings to make them more environmentally-friendly.

'We have only one planet,' said Andy Lester. 'There's no "planet B". It's time for the Church to stand up and take a lead. Let's say "no" to fracking, "no" to fossil fuels, "no" to unethical investment – and "yes" to a new sustainable future.'

do



About two-thirds of Britain's electricity is generated by burning coal and gas in power stations, according to www.greenelectricity.org.

The other third of electricity mainly comes from nuclear power. Green electricity comes from sources which don't have the same impact on the environment. These are known as renewables. They include:

- wind;
- wave;
- solar.

In addition, there are other alternative sources such as:

- hydro;
- tidal;
- geothermal;
- biomass;
- landfill gas;
- waste incineration.

By using clean, renewable energy we can help restore the earth and bring balance to God's creation.

Following the historic UN climate deal in Paris in December, the shift towards renewable energy has well and truly begun. Now we need to keep up the pressure on politicians and companies to go further. One way we can do this is to take small positive steps in our homes, churches and communities.

Led by CAFOD, Christian Aid and Tearfund, churches of all denominations, shapes, sizes and locations are joining together to make a Big Church Switch to 100% renewable electricity. Our own actions, multiplied, will send a strong signal to governments and businesses that churches are prepared to lead the way and switching to renewables is crucial if we are to live and enjoy God's world together.

Take a look at the Big Church Switch website to see how you and your church can take part. And don't miss the point below which tells you how you can switch to Ecotricity and raise money for A Rocha UK at the same time!

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BIG CHURCH SWITCH

www.bigchurchswitch.org.uk/



Obtain specialist advice on historic buildings

Guidance on improving energy performance on traditional or historic buildings can be found in a document from Historic England.

Plug into green power

Ecotricity, a leading green electricity company, has launched a campaign with A Rocha UK to help householders and churches plug in to alternative power – and boost conservation at the same time. Ecotricity will donate £50 per electricity meter to A Rocha UK for every church that signs up. They will give £40 for every household that switches to their electricity and £20 for each household turning onto their gas supply.

Check out the facts and figures

When Which? surveyed more than 9,400 people, Ecotricity topped the tables with 84 per cent for customer satisfaction. Good Energy, another green supplier, scored 82 per cent, putting it in second place.

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY

content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/energy-efficiency-historic-buildings-pt1/eehb-part1.pdf

ECOTRICITY

arocha.org.uk/green-power-to-help-a-rocha-uk

BEST ENERGY COMPANIES

www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/household-bills/10583986/The-best-energy-companies-youve-never-heard-of.html



Find out about green energy schemes

In the Anglican community, Parish Buying have started an 'Energy Basket', enabling parishes and church schools to pool their energy and buy in bulk with an 'energy basket' – the same way as major retailers, health trusts, local and national government. It's down to churches to register an interest in a 'green option' when contacting Parish Buying.

Discover how other churches get green energy

Energy can be the most significant spend for churches. The Diocese of Oxford has negotiated schemes with two of the UK's leading green energy providers for churches and domestic households. Here is the background to how that works for them.

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ENERGY BASKET

www.parishbuying.org.uk/categories/energy/energy-basket/energy-basket-faqs.html

GREEN ENERGY SWITCH

www.oxford.anglican.org/mission-ministry/environment/resources/switch-your-church-to-green-electricity