

Green Energy Companies and the Energy Footprint Tool (2023)

The Energy Footprint Tool allows a church to easily calculate the carbon footprint of their energy use (including oil, gas, electricity). It shows both their 'gross' and 'net' carbon footprint. The gross figure represents **all** the energy they have used, whilst the net figure deducts any electricity or gas which is either generated on-site or purchased from a 100% green tariff meeting certain criteria.

The list of companies meeting these criteria is reviewed each year. There is a degree of judgement involved, taking a balanced view across a range of factors, using only publicly available information. Where necessary and appropriate, a company or broker may be invited to attend for interview, at the Church Energy Advisors Network.

The criteria applied are:

- Whether a company's tariffs are all renewable, and if not how great a proportion is renewable;
- Whether they rely on offsetting;
- Whether units sold are the same as those supported by Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGOs);
- For electricity: Whether the company has its own generation and how much;
- For electricity: Whether purchase from other generators is direct;
- For gas: whether it is 100% bio-gas;
- Whether all is UK-generated;
- Whether the company is wholly or partly owned, or benefits from, investments by a fossil fuel major.

The following suppliers are deemed to have sufficiently met these EFT criteria in 2022*:

Electricity	Gas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecotricity • Good Energy • The 'Green Energy Basket' from Parish Buying / Total • Green Energy UK • Green Journey/SSE • Octopus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bulb (owned by Octopus from Dec '22) • Opus Energy • SSE Solutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown Gas & Power (100% green gas tariff only) • Green Energy UK • SSE Solutions (100% green gas only).

* *i.e.* The 2023 version of the EFT, which calculates churches' 2022 carbon footprint, using 2022 utility data.

If a church uses a supplier not on this list, but which states it is either 100% renewable or fully offset, then they can tick "yes" when prompted by the EFT. In either case, the electricity/gas used will **not** be automatically removed from their net carbon footprint but it **will** be shown in the results as having already been offset.

None of these companies or tariffs are necessarily *recommended* to parishes. Parishes will want to take into account other factors such as ethical sourcing, cost and customer service. The list is solely to determine whether gas or electricity should be deemed to be net zero carbon in the EFT's calculations.