

Solar PV Panels

Get the most out of your photovoltaic panels, use less energy and hopefully save some money.

Now you have photovoltaic panels on your roof we want you to get the best out of them.

Basically this means using as much of your daily energy use during daylight hours as possible and not using appliances all at the same time.

- **Will all my electricity be free now that I have PV?**

No, you will not pay for the electricity generated by the PV panels, however where you are using more at any time than the panels are generating you will pay the difference as normal to your energy supplier. This use is measured on your normal supply meter.

- **Do I need to manually switch between the energy generated by the PV panels or the energy I pay for?**

No, there is no need for you to do anything at all. If the PV panels are generating electricity this will automatically be used first in your home. If you are using more than the panels are generating at any one time then you will also be using the energy you are paying for from the National Grid.

- **Can the electricity be stored for me to use later?**

No, You can only use the electricity the panels are producing now. To get the best out of the PV panels you may need to change the way you currently use energy:

How can I get the best out of my PV system?

- Try to use as much of your daily energy use during daylight hours and particularly on a sunny day.
- Use one appliance at a time e.g. Do not vacuum when the washing machine is on, better to wait until the washing is finished. This is because you want to try to use the energy the panels generate rather than the energy you pay for. There are some general tips on saving energy on page 2.
- Consider putting timers on your washing machine, tumble dryer and dishwasher. These will help you to use the energy during the day when you are generating electricity. Set the timers at different times for each appliance.
- Consider using appliances such as a slow cooker which you can put on during the day, rather than using your oven at night.



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Your generation meter

Your generation meter shows how many KWh of electricity your meter has generated. Check the meter regularly and you will get to know how much free electricity you are generating on different days, depending on the weather and time of year. If you have access to the internet you can check your reading on line. Contact me for details and a password .At it's peak your system will generate around 2kw of electricity (depending on the size of the installation) . As a guide on the brightest sunny day if you boiled a 3KW kettle, 2kw of the energy used would be generated by the PV.

Checking your meter will help you to decide when to carry out your household work such as washing and ironing clothes.

Easy tips for saving energy

The money you can save by making small changes soon add up.

1. Close your curtains as it gets to dusk. This will help to keep heat in. If you have a radiator below the window, pile the curtains on top.
2. Turn your thermostat down. If you reduce your room temperature by only 1'C you can cut your heating bill by 10%.
3. Buy energy saving light bulbs. They are now available in most shapes and sizes and have improved greatly since they were first introduced. Halogen spot lights are particularly high energy users so change them to LED low energy bulbs.
4. Don't leave appliances on stand by. There are devices available to help you which let you switch off all the appliances plugged into a multi socket extension using your TV remote control. Look out for energy saving freebies such as this as energy companies have free offers from time to time.
5. Save clothes until you have a full load to wash. This is because it is cheaper to wash one full than two half loads of washing.
6. Use a microwave for cooking where possible.
7. Keep the lids on pans when you are cooking and use the right size pans for what you are cooking.
8. Cook in large batches as this uses less energy. It will also give you ready meals available in the freezer which can be heated in the microwave.
9. Wasted food is a large contributor to CO2 emissions. Freeze leftovers rather than put them in the fridge as they are less likely to be wasted.
10. When you are buying new electrical goods consider the energy they will use e.g. A new lap top generally uses 85% less energy than a new desk top computer. Choose kitchen appliances with the highest energy saving rating available.

If you have any questions contact:

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