

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.
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The following suppliers are deemed to have sufficiently met these EFT criteria in 2023*:

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 • Green Journey/Other Supplier • Octopus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bulb (owned by Octopus from Dec ‘22) • Opus Energy - Advance Plus tariff • SSE Solutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown Gas & Power (100% biogas tariff only – not 25% or 50% blends) • Green Energy UK • Green Journey (biogas not offset) • SSE Solutions (100% green gas only)

* *i.e.* The 2024 version of the EFT, which calculates churches’ 2023 carbon footprint, using 2023 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.

Note: In the first half of 2024, the national NZC Programme is undertaking a project to develop a more detailed agreed definition of a green tariff. This definition will then be applied to the market and used to define the list of green tariffs in the EFT for future years (2025 collection period onwards) – providing both certainty and transparency.