

# Thursley Climate and Sustainability Action

## Eco-friendly Living – it's Eco-logical



**This is the first article about “low carbon” energy use options.** Low carbon energy is typically electricity generated from solar, wind, water, air, ground and wave energy – often called *renewable* energy, but also includes nuclear power energy. It avoids the production of greenhouse gases in our use of energy, so is essential in meeting our 2050 “net-zero” target. We will all need to shift to low carbon sources, or reduce our consumption, to achieve this target.

**The simplest way** to use low carbon energy is to choose an electricity supplier that offers 100% renewable energy. Some suppliers generate their own, but others buy from guaranteed renewable sources (certified by Ofgem). There are many suppliers that offer this, so there's plenty of choice, and the good news is that you can often save money as well by changing supplier. The best way to change is to use a comparison site. I've used Martin Lewis' (Money Saving Expert) Cheap Energy Club (see link below) to provide switch options. It's easy to register and get the deals ranked by savings. You can set the filters to show 100% renewable energy, amongst other factors. There are other comparison sites you could use instead if you wish (see Action Surrey link below).

**If your oil or LPG boiler is getting to the point it needs replacing,** there are low carbon energy options you could choose. The Gov't's favourite option is **air source heat pumps** which uses the heat in the air to exchange with circulating water (as in normal CH systems). These are to be used on all new housing from 2025 but are

available now with generous subsidies from the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). They are more expensive initially than a replacement oil or LPG boiler, but with RHI the economic payback is good as you are no longer paying for oil and get a subsidy – but also your greenhouse gas emissions are significantly reduced. You would need to have a design prepared by a qualified installer to evaluate the option.

**Another option** would be to install **Solar PV (electricity)** or **Solar HW (hot water)** systems on your house. Although the subsidies to use them have reduced since April 2019, the installation cost has also fallen dramatically so they are still worth considering. You would need a quote from a qualified installer to evaluate.

Use the link to Action Surrey to get more details about the ideas presented in this article. **These changes could reduce your carbon footprint by up to 50%, so they're important.** If you want more information about these ideas or help, please contact [jdswift.thursleyipc@btinternet.com](mailto:jdswift.thursleyipc@btinternet.com).

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