



Children local to our Crossroads solar farm getting ready to bury a time capsule

A message from Juliet: Solar power: a sunny summer success story



Summer is the time of year when solar becomes a bigger part of our energy mix – both for Good Energy and the UK as a whole. Longer days mean we can maximise the daylight hours when panels generate electricity, and

thanks to advanced weather forecasting we can accurately predict how much power we can expect to come from the sun.

Despite disappointing cuts to government support it's been an incredible year for solar. **850,000 of us are now generating electricity** at home using our own panels. 2015 saw 9% of the UK's power coming from the sun and solar recently hit a significant milestone by generating more than coal for a full week – a first for our country.

Over a fifth of Good Energy's electricity mix comes from solar, which is testament to both the amazing technology which turns sunlight into electricity, and to the people who host the UK's solar farms. We think it's important to celebrate those who host renewable energy sites as they play a pivotal role in decarbonising our electricity mix.

Like the people of Alderholt in Dorset, the stewards of our Crossroads solar farm.

The panels there generate enough renewable electricity to power 1,250 average homes, and local residents have been brilliant in supporting the project from the beginning. We recently welcomed them to the solar farm to launch the £6,250 a year community fund which will be put towards charitable projects in the area, as chosen by a committee of local people.

We also **buried a time capsule to preserve life in 2016**, which will be unearthed in 2045 when the solar farm is decommissioned.

The capsule contained pictures drawn by schoolchildren of what they thought the future might be like, honey from beehives at the site and a letter from me which outlined my hopes for the future of energy in the UK.

And if the achievements of the last year are anything to go by, I see a bright future ahead.

**Juliet Davenport,
Good Energy Founder & CEO**

Inside this issue:

- Meet the makers of an award-winning hydro project in Pershore
- Just the ticket – green getaways with Rail Holidays
- Discover three small green changes you can make today



Have you seen it? Our video on Green Gas

In April we were excited to announce that we're sourcing a growing percentage of our gas from the UK for our domestic customers. **Now, 6% of the Green Gas we provide will be from British biomethane.**

Biomethane is captured as old veg, manure, and other waste and farming byproducts are processed in special anaerobic digesters. It's all turned into a useful fuel, while preventing methane from being released into the atmosphere.

It's important because methane is one of the most potent of the greenhouse gases: over 100 years, it causes approximately 25 times the damage of the same amount of CO₂.

It's exciting to be able to support a growing industry in the UK, helping make us a country more energy self-sufficient and bridge the gap towards a 100% renewable future. We're also using our Green Gas to help fund carbon-saving projects around the world.

Go online to watch our Green Gas video and find out more about our Green Gas and how it's helping the people and the planet.

goodenergy.co.uk/green-gas



Powering sustainable tourism

Just the ticket: green getaways with Railholiday

What's more unique than holidaying in a converted Victorian train carriage in beautiful Cornwall?

Railholiday offers self-catering stays with a difference, and has kept its green ethos on track by choosing Good Energy for its electricity. We spoke to company director Lizzy Stroud about the story behind her business and why she switched for good.

"In 1992 we bought a very derelict railway station in the village of St Germans on the Cornish main line and converted it into a house. A few years later we discovered a siding in the garden and decided to find a railway carriage to house our friends and family when they stayed. We decided to recoup the cost of the conversion by letting it to rail enthusiasts, and in July 1998 had our first guests."

Railholiday has now expanded, with four carriages to let including **an old travelling Post Office, a carriage built for Queen Victoria and Great Western Railway's first ever dining carriage.**

As well as being supplied by 100% renewable electricity, Lizzy has bolstered the environmental credentials of her business by installing solar panels, a biomass boiler and timers on lights in shared areas. As a result, Railholiday recently won the Visit England Gold Award for Sustainable Tourism.

"As a business it should be our duty to go for the greenest option, so why choose anything else?" said Lizzy. "It's a selling point that could help you stand out from the crowd, and eventually you might find like us it seeps into the ethos of the business and you could be winning awards."



Farmer Charles Hudson and his hydro project

Meet the makers: an award winning hydro in Pershore

Worcestershire farmer Charles Hudson has been farming along the banks of the River Avon for over forty years.

After devastating floods in 1998 and 2007 put his livelihood at risk, he decided to take action: instead of letting the flooding problem defeat him, he decided it was **time to work with nature** and “use the water in a more proactive way.”

So the idea for the Pershore Weir Hydro Project was born: Charles funded the development of two eight-metre long Archimedes screw turbines, built along the banks of the Avon and powered by the flow in the river.

They’ve been up and running since August 2014 and the power generated from the hydro goes directly to Pershore Leisure Centre on the opposite bank of the river. Any surplus is sold to Good Energy as part of our fuel mix.

Charles saw the opportunity to protect his farm from flooding, while providing habitats for local wildlife and building a more sustainable future for the UK.



Pershore Weir Hydro Project

And that’s not all; the hydro has also had some **surprising benefits for local canoeists!**

“The artificial watercourse built to channel water to the turbines acts as a perfect training area for canoeists,” says Charles. “There’s also a canoe pass, which means both paddlers and migrating fish have a safe route through.”

That’s just a few of the reasons that this year the project was recognised by Energy Now as the **‘Best Hydro Scheme’ in the UK.**

“I feel passionately about renewables, and believe they’re key to a sustainable future”, Charles said when accepting the award.

“There’s a huge amount of public enthusiasm for generating energy from natural resources.”

We’re really proud that electricity from the scheme is helping to power our renewable promise: it’s just the sort of proactive, positive project we’re passionate about getting behind.

goodenergy.co.uk/pershore-hydro

What does the public really think of renewables?

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) recently released its latest public attitudes tracker, asking UK residents their opinion on various energy topics ranging from bills to fracking.

81% of the UK public support renewables, while just 19% support fracking.

In the past 17 surveys, support for renewables has never dropped below 75%, and the proportion backing solar has always been 80% or higher.

Seven in 10 of us agree that renewable energy provides economic benefits to the country, something we’re dedicated to delivering through our Renewables Development Charter.

In comparison, support for nuclear and fracking is consistently overshadowed by renewables, with the latest stats revealing that 37% and 19% of the UK public support these technologies respectively.

Read the full article: goodenergy.co.uk/public-opinion-of-renewables-2016

Did you know that renewables accounts for 25% of the UK’s electricity generation? goodenergy.co.uk/growth-of-green-energy



Lots of people are growing their own veg this year

Three small green changes you can make today

Recently we teamed up with Friends of the Earth to find out what green changes the great British public are making for the planet in 2016.

The 2,000 answers included new parents committing to re-useable nappies, a woman organising an environmentally-friendly wedding, and one man who will be eco to the death – by booking a plot in an eco-friendly burial site.

The most popular green change was to save energy at home through better insulation and heating, investing in more efficient appliances and low-energy bulbs. Below we've collected the top three answers; you can see the top five list of green changes on our website.

1. Save energy at home

Did you know that you can help save energy by becoming more conscious of how you wash clothes? Avoiding the tumble dryer, using a cold wash and line-drying clothes can all save power – and doing washing in the middle of the day will avoid peak hours of usage and make use of solar power flooding the grid.

2. Bike or walk more

13% of people said they would be biking and walking more, with 28% of these committing to commute by bike instead of using the car.

3. Reduce, reuse and recycle more

Nearly 10% of people were planning on reducing purchases, reusing or upcycling their possessions or recycling more. We love this answer from Kayleigh, who was planning on avoiding using wrapping paper: 'I will only use recycled gift bags or other more environmentally friendly ways of giving presents!'

goodenergy.co.uk/3-small-changes

Doing the Good thing

Our new 2016 Progress Report provides an account of how we think we're doing as a responsible, ethical business. Have a read and let us know what you think.

goodenergy.co.uk/doing-the-good-thing

By choosing Good Energy for your business, you're acting as an environmental champion – taking an important step towards tackling climate change.

So **thank you** – you're helping to take us to a cleaner, greener future.



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