



Hello,

Welcome to the inaugural Green Journey newsletter, which will be issued on a quarterly basis moving forwards. You are receiving this newsletter as your church is a Green Journey customer or because you have expressed an interest in an aspect of the work of Green Journey do.

Green Journey is a scheme which provides religious organisations with support in reducing their environmental impact through renewable energy, energy audit reports, and through sustainability advice and support.

This newsletter will contain information on the energy market, energy industry and environmental news and updates, details on the services offered by Green Journey, and testimonials from customers of the scheme.

We continue to expand Green Journey into more regions, and to grow our service offering to help our clients reduce their carbon footprint and reach net zero goals.

God bless,

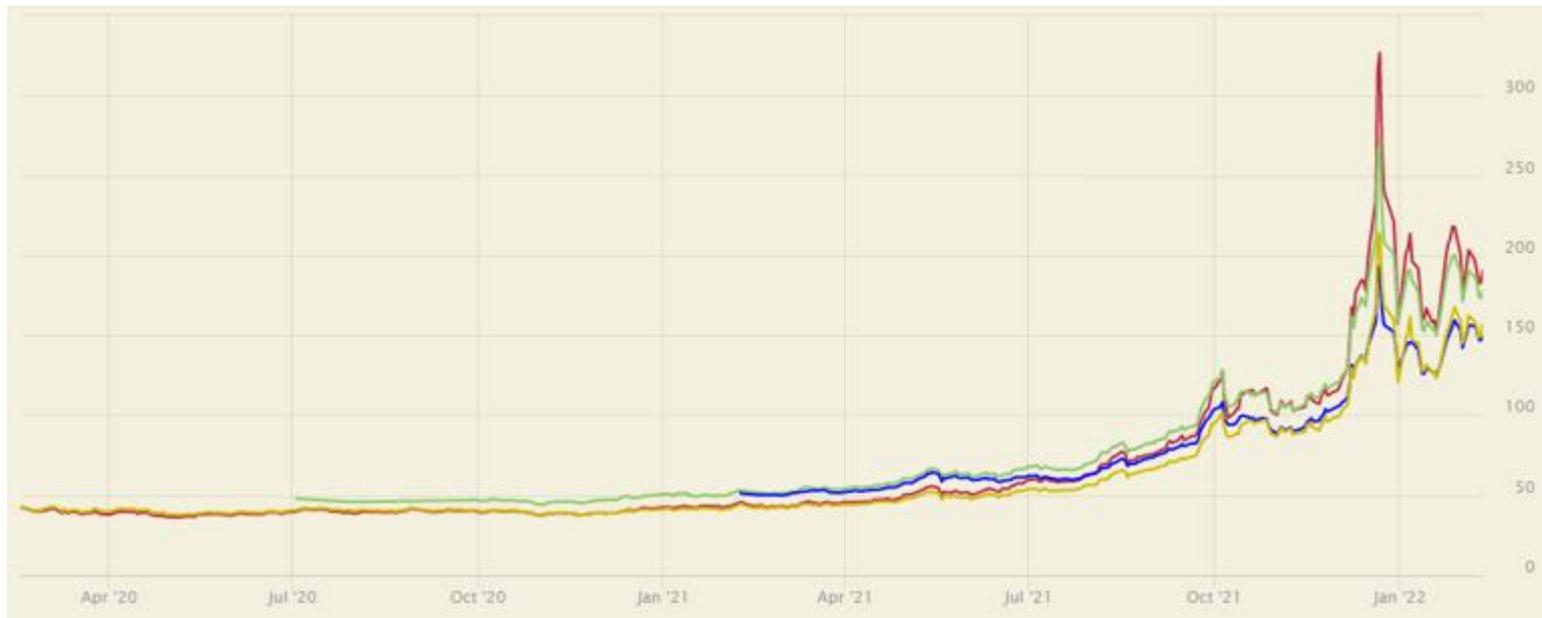
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The Energy Market



The current wholesale electricity and gas crisis has been covered in great detail in the news over the past few weeks and has resulted in wholesale costs reaching record highs over the past couple of months.

A combination of geopolitical pressure, recovery from COVID, closure of gas storage sites, higher than expected temperatures, lower than expected wind generation, and a global shortage of gas has led to the current crisis. This has led to 26 energy suppliers going out of business in 2021, however the majority were domestic only (and couldn't cover their costs due to the domestic price cap being below the wholesale cost).

It is important to note that the highest prices are for contracts commencing between now and October 2022 (correct at the time of writing). Future markets drop down for contracts commencing beyond October 2022 as the costs are a cheaper for the further out terms. If your contract is due to end after October 2022, we would still recommend that you procure your future renewable energy contracts now and limit any further cost increases.

For those with contracts ending sooner, we would advise continuing to procure renewable electricity and to look at 36-month contracts to reduce the total average cost by using the lower future markets to mitigate the higher short-term prices.

Industry News

Domestic Energy Price Cap Set To Increase by 54% From April

Ofgem announced that the domestic price cap was to increase from 1st April for Direct Debit customers on average usage to £1,971 per year. This is an increase of £693 and reflects the increases in the market over the past 6-9 months. The price cap is calculated in arrears and is set to increase again in October to reflect the current wholesale cost of energy. It is important to note that the domestic price cap does not apply to business energy contracts (which the church contracts are) and as such, the advice is to remain in a fixed term contract as this is currently cheaper than variable rates for business energy contracts.

In response, the Treasury has announced a £200 advance towards energy bills in October which will be repaid at £40 per year for the next five years. In addition, there is a £150 rebate on council tax bills from April. It is expected that the October advance will be absorbed into the future price cap increase at the same time. This is expected to increase the annual cost further to approximately £2,300.

BP Profits Hit Eight Year High

BP has followed Shell in benefiting from the energy crisis and the record wholesale prices of electricity and gas by announcing annual profits of £9.45bn in 2021. 32% of the profits came in the final quarter of 2021 during the period of enormous global gas demand and oil prices sitting at a 7 year high. This has led to renewed calls for a 'windfall tax' to be levied upon oil and gas producers who have benefited from the crisis, while households are left facing increased bills.

Pilot Scheme For British Households For Moving Usage Outside of Peak Times

National Grid ESO and Octopus Energy will offer British households financial incentives for changing their usage patterns to avoid peak times under a two-month pilot scheme. This has been long expected with the move to install smart meters in all domestic households, and aims to balance electricity supply and demand during peak times. During periods of low renewable generation, gas-fired power stations are used to meet demand which runs contrary to aims to decarbonise the power system by 2035 and reach net zero by 2050.

CoE News

Has your church completed the Energy Footprinting Tool this year?

Churches across the diocese are showing their concern for others and God's creation by using the Energy Footprinting Tool (EFT) to inform their action on climate change. The EFT enables churches to track the carbon emissions for their church, as the Church of England works towards becoming carbon net zero over the next nine years.

The EFT is easy to complete, only needing the energy bills for the church for the previous year. Once the data is entered the church receives a Carbon Emissions report that can be added to church annual reports and used to inform planning to reduce emissions. Every parish is encouraged to complete this section of the online parish returns annually.

The deadline for completing the EFT will be announced later this year.

[Read More](#)

A Rocha: Every Diocese now signed up for Eco Diocese

We are delighted to hear that every single Diocese in the Church of England has now registered with A Rocha UK's Eco Diocese scheme.

The news came at the start of the year, so you've probably already heard, but it's such good news we want to tell you again. This is a powerful statement of intent and shows that everyone is taking their commitment to creation seriously.

[Read More](#)

Church Toolkit: Six Steps to Zero

The Diocese of Leeds has published a toolkit for churches to help them think through and plan how to become carbon neutral. Step 3 is Essential Energy Actions which included switching to 100% renewable electricity and carbon neutral gas. For Green Journey customers this is already ticked off the list!

Download the toolkit [here](#)

Wealth of advice from C of E webinars

The C of E Environment Programme team have had a series of webinars running that are designed to support and equip you and your church to reach the Church's ambitious "net zero carbon" emissions target; everything from low cost 'housekeeping' actions which can pay back quickly to putting solar panels on your roof. If you missed the live webinar, they are there for you to watch back in your own time. Also, if you have any environment related queries, you can always contact your Diocesan Environment Officer or the 'Environment Champion' for you Episcopal Area.

[Learn More](#)

God's Green Fingers

If you missed January's edition of 'God's Green Fingers', click [here](#) to read more and see what you've missed.

Testimonials

St Timothy's, Sheffield

A big thank you to Green Journey for everything you have done and continue to do for us. The service is great and Craig has always gone that extra mile where needed.

St Mark's, Great Wyrley

I was introduced to Craig Hogg about 3 years ago. He was able to save us a considerable amount on switching energy providers for the church (electric and gas) and the church hall for gas. He has helped us in the process now of switching the hall electric. He has also helped in a dispute on VAT charges about 2-3 years before I was appointed Treasurer and recovered the amount overcharged. Every time I have contacted him I have always had very prompt and efficient responses.

St Paul's, Leeds

The first thing we have to say is that we are delighted we transferred to Green Journey. Since joining Green Journey we have been supported by Craig Hogg and the team superbly. All aspects of pricing, new contracts and ongoing professional support has been very well received. Good to work with an organisation who respond so quickly to the many questions I have placed before them and then given me such excellent advice. Their efforts have truly been appreciated; long may it continue. Sadly, our previous Gas and Electricity supplier have not made our transfer to Green Journey easy; however, through Mr Hogg, we look to be winning and we are looking to the time when all our Gas and Electricity will be under the Green Journey umbrella. I would strongly recommend Green Journey to others wishing to transfer their future Gas and Electricity contracts. We feel we are in "good hands."

Services



Renewable Energy Procurement

Green Journey provides Members with renewable electricity and various natural gas options from our approved providers.



Energy Audit & Report

An energy audit and report will show you how you use energy, and how to reduce your consumption in the future.



Account Management

Every Green Journey Member receives a full account management service. We speak with suppliers on your behalf, resolve any issues, and are here to help.



Smart Metering

With smart meters fitted as standard, your meter readings will be sent automatically to your supplier. This means your bills will be actual readings - not estimates.



Account Audit

Religious organisations typically pay 5% VAT and do not pay CCL. Green Journey will audit your energy accounts and reclaim any overpaid VAT and CCL.

Until Next Time

We welcome any comments, feedback, reviews, or suggestions for our Summer Edition. Please contact our team on 0333 006 7177 or info@greenjourney.org.

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