

# COMMERCIAL GUIDE TO RENEWABLE ENERGY



## RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR SMALL & MEDIUM SIZED BUSINESSES

Energy usage has a significant impact on the operational costs of any business. Understandably, businesses are always looking for cost-effective ways to manage their energy consumption and cut the cost of utility bills. Which is why more and more UK businesses are investing in renewable energy.

According to a survey by leading energy supplier Opus Energy, 78% of smaller companies want to make the switch to clean green energy.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY – THE OBVIOUS CHOICE

Taking charge of your energy consumption is not just the smart choice but the only choice. The energy market is extremely volatile and fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas won't last forever. With the ongoing concerns and discussions surrounding carbon emission levels and climate change, boosting your green credentials will reap many benefits, not just in terms of lower utility bills and a smaller carbon footprint, but in highlighting your desire to become actively involved in the world's need to provide a secure future for our descendants.

**WHY RENEWABLE ENERGY?**

- HIGH YIELD
- BE GREEN
- REDUCE ENERGY BILLS
- REDUCE CARBON FOOTPRINT
- HIGH RETURN ON INVESTMENT
- LOW COST
- LESS TAX



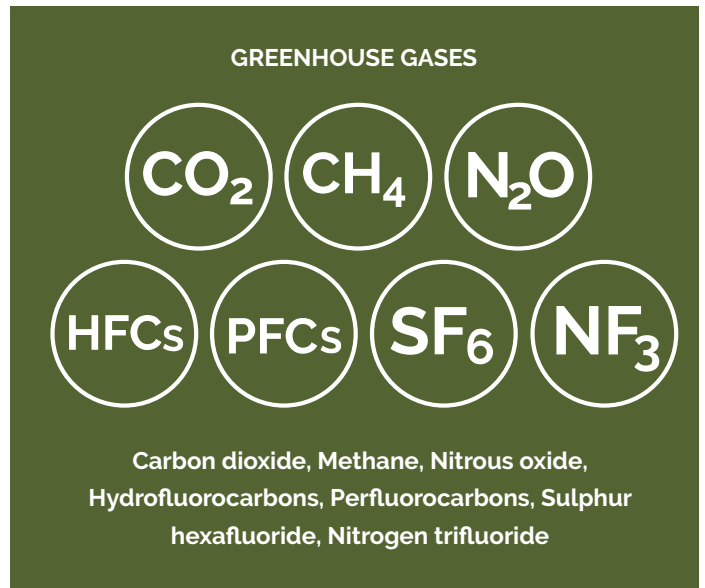
## HOW DIRTY IS YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT?

Every business has a carbon footprint, and it is determined by the total greenhouse gas emissions released into the atmosphere by their activities. In line with an international treaty, known as the Kyoto Protocol, countries including the UK are legally bound to reduce their level of greenhouse gas emissions.

By burning fossil fuels to generate electricity, the process emits three greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide), the most prevalent being carbon dioxide.

The amount of energy a business uses is the largest contributor to its carbon footprint, with every kWh of coal derived electricity consumed emitting approximately half a kilogram of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

By using renewable energy, businesses can save tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions every year.



There are seven main Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) that make up a businesses' carbon footprint:

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## ELEMENTS OF YOUR ENERGY COSTS

## WHAT MAKES UP YOUR ENERGY BILL?

Energy bills can be quite complicated to understand. But by understanding the different elements of your energy bill, businesses can manage their energy consumption more effectively.

Your energy bill contains five different elements, with the wholesale cost for the energy you use accounting for the biggest portion.

- 1 Wholesale or base cost for electricity**  
(this can vary throughout the day)
- 2 Supplier cost to deliver energy**
- 3 Infrastructure and distribution costs**
- 4 Carbon taxes**
- 5 VAT**



## CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE CLIMATE CHANGE ACT

The Climate Change Act of 2008 was introduced by the government to help the UK transition towards a low carbon economy. Legally binding targets have been set in place to achieve a reduction in carbon dioxide emission of at least 26% by 2020, and an 80% reduction of all greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Under the Climate Change Act, the Committee on Climate Change was established. This independent body advises the government on emissions targets and how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Read more about the [Climate Change Act](#).



### MAKE MONEY BY GENERATING RENEWABLE ENERGY

Renewable energy technologies will lower your energy bills and help reduce your carbon footprint. But did you know that you can also get paid for the renewable energy your business generates?

The government has established financial incentive schemes called the Feed-in Tariff and non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive [link to external page with latest details on these incentives] and will pay you for every kWh of renewable electricity and heat energy you produce.

If your business generates more energy than it uses, you can boost your profitability by selling excess energy back to the national grid.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY IS THE FUTURE - DON'T GET LEFT BEHIND

The UK has a target to produce 15% of its energy from renewable energy technologies. Set in place by the government, it supports the European Union's Renewables Directive (officially titled 2009/28/EC) which was established in 2009 to mandate renewable energy generation levels across the member states.

**Renewable energy is for everyone. For businesses of all shapes and sizes it makes sense from an environmental perspective and from a financial business perspective.**

**There's never been a better time to go green and generate your own clean energy.**

