



GreenPower Guide for Congregations and Homes

Issued April 2022

Your average congregation or household only have a few pathways to address their electricity carbon footprint, and that has traditionally been through [solar panels](#)¹ or by reducing energy usage with an [energy audit](#).² Thankfully, our world is becoming more environmentally conscious, and we now have more choice over where our energy comes from when our primary source for electricity is through the main power grid. Choosing GreenPower is a widely accessible step that can be taken to conscientiously address how we source our energy, and this guide will help you to do that. Collectively, GreenPower helps push our community closer towards a clean power transition by increasing the demand for renewable energy, and decreasing it for fossil fuels.

What is GreenPower?

[GreenPower](#)³ is a national and government accredited way to access renewable energy sourced through sun, wind and water infrastructure projects. You can access GreenPower through your existing electricity retailer, or by making the switch to a retailer that offers it. This doesn't happen automatically, and it's something you need to consciously choose through your retailer.

What to consider before switching to GreenPower

If you're a long serving treasurer in a congregation, veteran homeowner or renter, you'll already know that not all energy retailers are the same. But if this is new to you, two things worth considering before switching to GreenPower are how a retailer sources its energy and the cost.

1. **Energy Source:** The following Green Electricity guide by Greenpeace ranks green energy providers by the percentage of their energy generation that is sourced through renewable electricity

<https://greenelectricityguide.org.au/>

2. **Cost:** When considering what is personally affordable, it's best to compare retailers through an independent resources.

- Use the *Energy Made Easy* website if you are in Tasmania: <https://www.energymadeeasy.gov.au/>, or
- The *Compare Energy* website if you are in Victoria: <https://compare.energy.vic.gov.au/>
- St Vincent de Paul also keep a report on Victorian energy prices that is updated annually: https://www.vinnies.org.au/icms_docs/330614_Victorian_Energy_Prices_January_2022.pdf



What is green washing?

Greenwashing is the term used to articulate the practice of business using climate conscious language to provide false impressions, or misleading information about products they sell. In the energy retail sector, this takes the form of telling customers that their business model is environmentally friendly when in reality it falls short. The JIM Cluster commends the Greenpeace Green Electricity Guide to you not only because it's the only resource available, but also because it has taken a considered approach of cutting through greenwashing and marketing spin. Their methodology is available online:

<https://greenelectricityguide.org.au/report>

¹ <https://justact.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Installing-Solar-Panels-Advice-Sheet-Feb-2022.pdf>

² <https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/energy-efficiency-and-reducing-emissions/in-a-business>

³ <https://www.greenpower.gov.au/>