

Cheap Electricity from Solar PV

With energy prices rising it makes sense to look at cheaper electricity suppliers. At Brighton Energy Coop we offer discounted electricity from solar PV: a typical BEC price is 6.5p per unit, whereas current electricity prices are around 11p. Last year our we saved our existing landlords more than £9,000 on their electricity bills (see sidebox).

Benefits to you

Brighton Energy Coop offers you substantial electricity savings without having to pay for your own solar kit. Instead we lease rooftops and install community-funded solar PV on your building. Our solar panels can save you thousands of pounds on your electricity bill for decades to come – and it won't cost you a penny.



Electricity cost comparison (per kWh)

Typical electricity rate:	11p
Typical BEC solar rate:	6.5p
You save:	4.5p

- Discounted, carbon-free electricity for 20 years
- No need for capital expenditure
- Wider integration into the local community
- Reduced environmental impact

In 2014 our solar landlords reduced their electricity spend by 50%

Organisations that we currently work with in the Brighton area include Shoreham Port, St George's Church, and City Coast Church. Shoreham Port were so keen on working with us they commissioned a second system three times the size of the initial one. See our case study on City Coast Church overleaf.

Ask us for a quote!

Email info@brightonenergy.org.uk or visit our website and see how much you could save on your electricity bills

How it works

We lease roofspaces and then install community-funded solar panels. We sell the electricity that we generate to you at a discounted rate. There are no costs: we cover all technical, insurance and maintenance issues.

Step 1: Site survey

BEC surveys each site and works out solar potential. We then discuss with you how the electricity produced can reduce your electricity bill.

Step 2: Lease agreement

BEC leases the roof space for 20 years

Step 3: Funding

BEC regularly funds new solar PV installations via community share offers. In the last 4 years we've raised nearly £700,000 for new solar PV.

Step 4: Installation

Installation usually takes 2-3 weeks.

Step 5: Ongoing

You'll start seeing a reduction on your electricity bill within 3 months. BEC owns the solar PV and receives income through the Feed-in-tariff scheme and electricity sales.

Step 6: Operation and Maintenance

Revenue is used to pay interest to our members and our operational costs. Bi-annual maintenance is also carried out. Online monitoring keeps a record of electricity generated and used.

For more info visit our website at www.brightonenergy.org.uk or drop an email to info@brightonenergy.org.uk. Brighton Energy Cooperative is the trading name of Brighton Energy Ltd, registered number 31107 R, as a Community Benefit Society incorporated in England and Wales on the 10 November 2010 under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965.

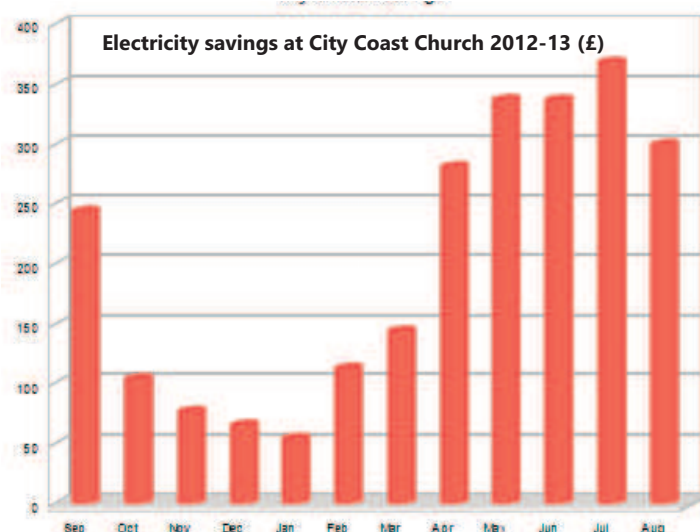


Case Study: City Coast Church

In June 2012 Brighton Energy Coop installed more than 100 solar panels on City Coast Church in Portslade. Using the money saved on their electricity bill the church has been putting on various community events:

Manager Simon Lewis told the Shoreham Herald: "While the cost savings and environmental benefits of hosting BEC's solar panels are important, it's the work the scheme allows us to do in the community that's really valuable.

"At our annual carol service, not only did we put on free food and drink for people, but we were able to raise money for domestic abuse charity Rise on the night. This is just one example of how we are using our energy cost savings for the benefit of local people, and it's this ripple effect that BEC's solar scheme has throughout the community that makes it such a worthwhile project to be involved with."



Frequently Asked Questions...

What sort of roof space is required?

Roofs need to be flat, or south, east or west-facing, and unshaded.

What will be the impact on the roof?

During construction our contractors hold full insurance to cover any adverse impacts to our solar buildings. Our panels and equipment are also fully insured for the lifetime of the project.

Do solar panels affect the resale value of the building?

Studies in the US have shown that solar PV can increase the resale value of residential properties. While there are no similar studies in the UK, we believe potential purchasers see reduced electricity bills as a positive factor.

Will it cost us anything?

No. BEC covers the cost of all structural surveys, planning issues, installation, operation and maintenance.

Who owns the panels once they're installed?

Brighton Energy Co-op.

What happens if BEC goes bust?

If BEC were to fail its solar panels would be sold; this is unlikely to affect the landlord and their solar electricity supply. BEC holds little debt and has a strong balance sheet.

About Brighton Energy Coop

Brighton Energy Coop is the largest solar PV developer in Brighton and Hove. We raise money by selling shares in the co-op; members receive a 5% return as well as a 30% tax break on the amount invested. Based in Brighton, day to day operation and project development is run exclusively by BEC; we have widespread support in the local area with hundreds of residents investing, ranging from professionals, students, retirees – and a local vicar. Most of our members are from Brighton and the surrounding area.

BEC Milestones:

2011 - Raised £18,000 from six Brighton investors to develop concept.

2012 - 150 people invest £240,000; BEC installs 1st solar project across three sites.

2013 - Added a further £225,000 of solar to our renewables portfolio.

2014 – Amidst two ministerial visits we raised a further £220,000 for a new solar array at Shoreham Port.