

# Phil's Advice sheet

This information is put together from personal experience and is used at the reader's own risk. There are many more suppliers out there than I have noted so my suggestions are only a start.

## Solar panels:

The project at St George's church contracted with Synergy Power Ltd – contact details:

Kuki Dattani

[kuki@synergypowerltd.co.uk](mailto:kuki@synergypowerltd.co.uk)

07752 333433

[www.synergypowerltd.co.uk](http://www.synergypowerltd.co.uk)

Synergy Power Ltd | The Techno Centre. Coventry University Technology Park. Puma Way. Coventry. CV1 2TT

We also had a quote from Stratford Energy:

Jason Savidge

01789 262 411

E-mail: [jason@stratfordenergy.co.uk](mailto:jason@stratfordenergy.co.uk) Web: [www.stratfordenergy.co.uk](http://www.stratfordenergy.co.uk)

Unit 2, 1 Avenue Farm Ind Estate, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 0HR

Suppliers will be happy to quote – probably from a google satellite image initially - and will describe the different types of panels. In essence there are two main options: series, or parallel installation. In series, if one panel is shaded, they all lose power, but in parallel then only that one would lose power.

We do not have a battery, and I do not recommend them. They are very expensive, consuming rare earth materials. They can only store enough energy for daily variation, but they cannot store enough from the summer to winter or even week to week. They are not environmentally beneficial but may be commercially interesting if you have high evening use.

The following link describes planning considerations:

<https://www.planningportal.co.uk/permission/common-projects/solar-panels/planning-permission>

<https://www.planningportal.co.uk/permission/common-projects/solar-panels-non-domestic/planning-permission>

The supplier will need to check out your roof to make sure it's strong enough and will arrange grid connection permissions.

Two useful government sites are:

[https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/sites/default/files/docs/2020/02/seg\\_generator\\_guidance\\_-\\_final\\_for\\_publication.pdf](https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/sites/default/files/docs/2020/02/seg_generator_guidance_-_final_for_publication.pdf)  
and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-energy-devices-in-homes-or-small-businesses-guidance-for-device-owners-and-installation-contractors/register-energy-devices-in-homes-or-small-businesses-guidance-for-device-owners-and-installation-contractors>

and this site shows which companies are obliged to buy your export:

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/seg-supplier-list>

An additional piece of advice – try to get your meter changed to a smart meter (SMETS2) if you don't already have one. It will make it easier to sell your excess power. I have found Octopus to be the most responsive supplier/purchaser and a very good rate.

## Heat pumps

Here are two blog posts I have written on our experience of domestic air to air heat pump:

<https://philhemsley.wordpress.com/2021/11/15/a-cost-effective-way-to-get-your-co2-down/>

<https://philhemsley.wordpress.com/2022/08/24/a-heat-pump-strategy-that-works/>

Here's a helpful video explaining the difference between different heat pump types (from about 2 minutes in).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dziURTVfIVY>

To find local installers for heat pumps, look for 'air conditioning' rather than heat pumps. For the church project we have quotes from the following companies, who all seem responsive.

#### **Air Conditioning Nationwide**

Steve Varley

[steve@airconditioningnationwide.com](mailto:steve@airconditioningnationwide.com)

<https://www.airconditioningnationwide.com/>

#### **Accutemp**

Dave Horsley

[sales@accutemp.co.uk](mailto:sales@accutemp.co.uk)

<https://accutemp.co.uk/>

#### **Custom Heat**

Tom Price

[office@customheat.co.uk](mailto:office@customheat.co.uk)

[www.customheat.co.uk](http://www.customheat.co.uk)

#### **Northants air conditioning**

Justin Rawlings

[info@northantsrefrigeration.co.uk](mailto:info@northantsrefrigeration.co.uk)

<https://www.northantsaircon.co.uk/>

Personally, I have found Nationwide very responsive, competitive and trouble free.

## **LED lighting**

LED lighting is far more efficient than either incandescent or fluorescent lighting. There are different ways to convert to LED. For standard (e.g bayonet) bulbs you can just buy straight replacements. Fluorescent bulbs can be replaced with some adaptation to the fitting – probably best to get an electrician to do that. Other lighting may need a complete fitting replacement, and again it's best to get an electrician to do that. If you have dimmer switches, you need to ensure that your LEDs are compatible – some are, some aren't.

## **How to find a tradesperson / company**

One good way to find an electrician (or other tradesperson) is to post the job on a site such as:

<https://www.checkatrade.com/>

<https://www.mybuilder.com/how-it-works>

These sites give good advice on how to go about it too.

## **Where to find insulation:**

B&Q are very good value for insulated tile backer board. But google search shows many options.

### **Search for "Insulated Tile Backer Board"**

Toolstation or Wickes may stock a few rolls of ~5mm thermal lining paper but may need to buy online

### **Search for "Thermal Lining Paper"**

Some good insulation suppliers I've used who all delivered:

<https://www.celticsustainables.co.uk/insulation/>

<https://www.insulationsuperstore.co.uk/>

<https://www.melbros.com/product-page/rigid-pir-insulation-board-2400-x-1200-x-100mm> - a local company...

Here's another company who also do insulating plaster:

<https://www.ecologicalbuildingsystems.com/products/insulation-and-materials/solid-wall-insulation>

Also worth looking on Facebook Marketplace for insulation or other materials, as people often over order and offer the remainder for sale.

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If you find this helpful, then please consider donating to a small charity that I am trustee of that helps the poorest in Beira, Mozambique: 1 JOHN 3:17-18 BEIRA Charity number: 1191669

For details of the activities see <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/5165667/accounts-and-annual-returns>

Account Name: 1 JOHN 3 BEIRA

Sort Code 08-92-99

Account Number: 67198719

Thanks,

Phil Hemsley

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