

# The sky's the limit with solar energy savings

David Stevenson, Mole Energy



In a recent article by the BBC, it was suggested that the only way customers could be helped to cope with the recent surge in energy prices, was to split their energy bill payments over several years<sup>1</sup>. This simply isn't true!

Installing solar panels for your home or business means you no longer need to worry about sudden surges in energy prices, or the prospect of paying energy suppliers tomorrow to keep the lights on today. Generating your own energy allows you to lock in savings and do your part for the environment, as Alan's story shows.

## Time for change

Alan Boddington bought The Poltimore Inn and adjoining land in North Molton, Devon, nine years ago. Since then, Alan has set about redeveloping the site, bringing it to life with a 70 seater restaurant offering locally sourced food, five holiday B&B lodges and observatory; complete with a Sky-Watcher and EVO Scope. Today, The Poltimore Inn is a popular 'watering hole' for locals, walkers, sky watchers, families, visitors to Exmoor and those cycling from Lands' End to John O' Groats.

Like many businesses in the hospitality and leisure sector, the last two years were particularly challenging for Alan. With no option but to 'call time' during formal furlough periods, Alan decided to use the time to "assess, improve and reboot" his business, to operate in a more environmentally friendly way when customers returned.

## "Assess, improve and reboot"

Already self-sufficient for water (The Poltimore Inn has its own well), Alan turned his attention to energy conservation and consumption.

That meant installing thermal sheeting in the cellar, LED lighting in the building and solar panels on the roof.

"My primary goal was to cut our carbon footprint," says Alan, "and with energy costs going up and the cost of installation unlikely to fall any time soon, I thought the time was right to go for solar. Mole Energy installed a 31.03 kWh solar PV system in September 2021.

"This has already helped us to lower our carbon emissions and energy bills. The panels will help keep our cellar cool in summer, run the chillers and cookers in the kitchen and power the holiday lodges."

"Whilst I've been a Mole Valley Farmer customer since 1979, choosing Mole Energy was very much a business decision.

"I've seen many solar installers come and go over the years, but Mole Energy has stayed the course. This is important to me, especially if I need additional support with my system in the future. I liked their products, too. Mole Energy was the only company that supplied the panels I was looking for.

**"Our new panels are expected to contribute towards 50% of my energy bill.** The system has already produced 1,174 units of power over the winter months and based on our current competitive electricity prices (16p per unit for the pub, and 32p per unit for the lodges), I've saved £230\* already. And - as the cost of energy goes up, my savings will increase, too.

"The installation went very smoothly, and Mole Energy worked well with other on-site contractors. **Everything went to plan - except for the weather!**"

Alan Boddington, Proprietor

\*at the time of writing

1. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-60127507>



Whilst the optimum location for solar is a south-facing roof, at a 30-degree angle; solar also works well on east-west roofs, with angles between 5 and 40 degrees. The Poltimore Inn is a good example of this, having a 10-degree pitch on a flat roof.

Enjoy lower energy bills with solar and call our team today



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