

# Summer's here - time to escape spiralling bills with solar!

David Stevenson, Mole Energy



As the summer rolls in, many businesses are stuck in the gloom caused by rocketing energy prices. But when one of our business customers decided to escape to the sun with solar power, they not only saved thousands on energy bills, they also won a range of industry awards!

Long Hazel Park in Sparkford, Somerset has long been a favourite for visitors to the Royal Bath & West, and Dairy and Tractor shows, building a reputation for comfortable, responsible and sustainable holiday accommodation.

In recent years, Alan and Pamela Walton have planted beech and fruit trees and hundreds of metres of hedgerows. They've also introduced bird boxes, hedgehog bungalows and bee habitats, to make Long Hazel a haven for wildlife. In 2022, they made 'The David Bellamy Blooming Marvellous Pledge for Nature', planting additional trees and pollinating plants, reinforcing hedgerows and providing shelters for bats, dormice, hedgehogs, owls and birds.

Powering Long Hazel's sustainability efforts are two solar systems, which Mole Energy installed in 2018. These systems have played a key role in helping Long Hazel secure a Silver Award for their commitment to operating 'Ethically, Responsibly and Sustainably' in the 2022 Bristol, Bath and Somerset Tourism Awards; adding to their 2021 Bristol, Bath and Somerset Tourism Gold Award for Camping, Glamping and Holiday Park of the year.

## Award-winning approach

"Our solar energy systems featured heavily in our award applications," said Alan Walton, "where we were able to share the positive effects of our sustainable ethos and lower carbon emissions."

Alan's twelve panel, domestic single-phase system for their home has generated over 10,500kWh of power since installation. This has helped cut their home energy bills by two thirds; supported by LED lighting, double-glazed windows and cavity wall insulation.

Elsewhere, the park's commercial three-phase system is made up of two banks of LG solar panels. These panels have generated more than 28,000kWh since installation, which they use to power their extractor fans, LED lighting, fire safety lights, hand dryers, boiler pumps, washing machines and tumble dryers; during peak generation between 7:00 and 11:00am.

"Based on the energy we generated between installation in December 2018 and September 2021, we've saved an average of 30% on our electricity bills each year," said Mr Walton. "The capital investment for our commercial solar installation has also been written off against profits, making it a tax-free investment."

## Looking forward

Today, Long Hazel Park is working to achieve net zero status. As part of this effort, Alan and his wife Pamela are now planning to install an additional solar panel system onto a new wheelchair accessible lodge. This commercial system will include battery storage to provide off-grid power and make the lodge self-sufficient.

"For us, the benefits of solar cut several ways. The panels have helped us to cut our carbon emissions, be more tax-efficient and escape rocketing energy costs," added Mr Walton. "We're really pleased and Mole Energy has been excellent."

## Why solar?

"With energy prices going up, **solar made sense** both commercially and sustainably."

## Why Mole Energy?

"We've been members of Mole Valley Farmers for over 30 years and **chose Mole Energy for their reputation as an installer we could trust**. This was proven by the quote they offered us, their expert approach and reliability throughout the project."

"Mole Energy's Commercial Surveyor designed and arranged the installation of our solar system in late 2018. At that time, our electricity charges were 15p per kWh. This has now jumped to 21p per kWh, following the end of our two year fixed price contract."

"With energy prices soaring, the reminders in the Mole Valley Farmers' magazine have certainly rung true."

**Alan and Pamela Walton**  
Proprietors, Long Hazel Park, Sparkford

Save your business from spiralling bills and call our solar team today



01803 732946  
info@moleenergy.com

