

# Proof in the pudding: Why any business can save dough with solar

David Stevenson, Mole Energy



**Serving farmers has long been our 'bread and butter' business but at Mole Energy we also work with other customers supplying the food chain too.**

## Plymouth's Best Pasty

Friary Mill Bakery is used to winning such hotly contested awards.

Founded on the site of the old Friary Gate in Plymouth in 1988, the business quickly earned a reputation as 'Plymouth's local bakery', scooping awards for 'Bakery of the Year', the 'South West's Best Bakery' and more - expanding into home delivery with eleven shops across Plymouth and Ivybridge.

## Rising bread prices

Keeping communities fed is an energy-intensive business, as Friary Mill co-founder and Chair of bakery supply business Bako Western, **Karen Milner**, knows only too well.

Baking, mixing, cooling, slicing, bagging, air-conditioning and other every day activities means the average UK bakery uses significant amounts of power each year. The Carbon Trust said the largest bakeries can spend £335,000 on heating ovens alone.

With energy costs up at least 25% on last year, according to Ofgem, and bakeries especially exposed to the soaring cost of food and fuel, energy efficiency is an increasingly important consideration for businesses like Friary Mill. Karen therefore turned to Mole Energy

to install two new solar arrays at her business' production site in Cattedown, Plymouth, in February this year.

System one generated 14,060kWs and system two generated 11,740kWs, in their first two months of operation, **saving more than 5500 kilograms of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**. This puts Friary Mill on track to **save more than £10,000 from its energy bill in year one**.

## Already proven

So, why did Friary Mill choose Mole Energy?

Co-founder, Karen, who owns a 10-acre smallholding with eight ewes, seven lambs and one ram, has been a Mole Valley Farmers' member for many years.

She said: "We have solar at home and when it came to finding a solar supplier for our business, we chose Mole Energy for their excellent service and very friendly team."

We're very glad they did.

"As a business, we'd wanted to invest in solar for a long time, and now had the capital to go ahead with our plans. We wanted to be green and do our bit, as we use a lot of power and anything we can do to offset this energy is positive. This is even more true now that energy bills are rising. We're happy with the results so far and are considering adding more panels in future."

Karen Milner, Co-Founder and Director of Friary Mill Bakery, Devon

To find out more, visit our website, [moleenergy.com](http://moleenergy.com), or call our team today!



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