

# Solar Savings - £1,200 off home energy bills in one year

David Stevenson, Mole Energy



**In December 2020, Sonia and Steve asked Mole Energy to install a 12 panel, 4.08kW solar PV system on the roof of their Devon home, a four bedroom detached bungalow they share with their two teenage sons.**

"It was an investment for ourselves and future generations," said Sonia.

Two years later, we wanted to find out if we'd fulfilled our promise of helping the couple save money and live more sustainably.

The answer? A resounding yes - and then some.

## Home smart home

The location of Sonia and Steve's house means the couple are 100% dependent on electricity for power. "We therefore wanted to generate as much free electricity as possible and to understand how and when we were using energy," said Sonia.

The couple switched energy suppliers and installed modern radiators and a smart meter. Their new system was a big step forward. "Our smart meter tells us instantly how much energy we're using in terms of pounds, pence and wattage and turns red when we're consuming more than usual," said Sonia.

"It's a great help, as we can monitor when we consume most electricity and learn when to avoid using high-energy items like the washing machine. As a result, we only put a wash on when our generation reaches 1,000 kW and we're confident that the whole cycle will run on free power.

"The biggest surprise is that our panels still generated free electricity occasionally through the winter months. This had a positive impact on our bills."

## Pounds and pence

Energy prices have rocketed since the couple installed their panels. Today, power from their energy supplier costs 164% more than in 2020, which means the value of the energy generated by their panels has increased too, and in more ways than one.

Sonia said: "Saving on home energy bills is one thing, but Octopus Energy also pays us 15p per unit for any excess energy we generate and send back to the National Grid\*. This has made such a difference.

"Firstly, we benefit from having both a day and night rate for our energy bills. This allows us to plan how to use as much free solar energy as possible in the daytime.

"Secondly, in the summer months we generate significant excess energy. The amount Octopus pays us for this power quickly adds up

### \* Smart Export Guarantees (SEG) explained:

Some energy suppliers offer 'Smart Export Guarantee' payments to customers that generate excess solar power and export it to the Grid. To find out more, contact your energy supplier or visit: [www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-and-social-schemes/smart-export-guarantee-seg](http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-and-social-schemes/smart-export-guarantee-seg)



and they deduct this from our bill. What we accumulate as credit in the summer helps us pay for our bills during the winter, when we're producing less solar energy.

"We also set up a direct debit and pay the same amount each month, whatever our usage. This helps us to manage our outgoings all year round."

## Why wait?

Sonia and Steve are considering adding a battery to their home system, as they may well choose a hybrid or electric car when they buy their next vehicle. "For now, though, our solar is more than paying for itself," added Sonia.

It could for you, too - and technological and economic shifts mean there has never been a better time to install solar. Today, 10 new panels generate the same power as 12 panels did in 2020. In addition, homeowners currently pay zero VAT on new solar installations. And from next month, those with solar could protect themselves further and save more when the energy price cap rises to 45p per unit.

Home solar, in 2023, makes perfect sense for planet and pocket.

"Our system has consistently generated more than 3,700 kW each year. Since 2020, we've exported over 2,000 kW back to the Grid. As a result, our energy savings have far exceeded the £451 per year figure initially quoted by Mole Energy, at the time of our installation.

"With our energy priced at 45p per unit, we've reduced our home energy bills by £1,200 in the last 12 months and earned an additional £160, for the electricity we exported.

My advice for anyone considering solar? If you can afford it, go for it!"

Sonia D

To find out how much you could save with solar, contact our team today



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