

Solutions found and savings made - with home solar and battery storage

David Stevenson, Mole Energy



When Ian and his wife decided to install solar panels and battery storage for their home, they were looking to meet several needs. First, to address the recent rise in energy costs, second, not to be left for days without electricity (as they had been after Storm Eunice), third, to be able to charge their plug-in hybrid car, fourth, to add value to their property, and last but not least, to reduce their carbon footprint.

Reputation for results

Ian told us: "Mole Energy enjoys a good reputation for solar installations, so they were one of the companies we put our requirements to. Jack, a consultant from the Mole Energy team, identified problems with our initial plan for a ground mounted, garden array and persuaded us that a roof array was a simpler and more cost effective solution. We also decided on a Tesla Powerwall 2 battery, holding 13.5 kWh, meeting the brief in terms of us being able to automatically run the house during a power cut for an extended period.

"Jack's quote was easy to understand and contained details of the panels, batteries, inverter and control unit. Then Mole Energy's operations team kept us informed of progress from that point on to the installation, which happened on the day promised.

Up and running

"The installation went very smoothly, alleviating our initial reservation of possible damage to our slate roof. The team was very professional; the panels were fitted in a single day, with the aid of scaffolding provided by a company recommended by Mole Energy. At the same time, an inverter and control unit were fitted on the side of the house next to the meter, ready for the battery, which was fitted to the same high standard as the rest of the work. We were then off-grid and on-charge from the solar panels - with electricity to spare.

In summary

"We are very satisfied with our installation, in terms of the performance of the components recommended by Mole Energy, the service provided by their office staff and by the quality and professionalism of their technicians."

Living better for less

We decided to stay with our energy supplier, Octopus, and switched to their Flux tariff, offering three price bands for importing and exporting power. **The Tesla Powerwall comes with an app to monitor and control the system's performance. We can see how much power is coming from the panels and where it is going.** The app learns the house's power consumption pattern and adjusts the power distribution from the panels and the Powerwall to maximise income.

During the high peak period, the Powerwall provides power to the house, and the PV panels' entire output is sent to the grid at 31p/unit. After 7pm, any remaining solar power is shared between the house and the battery until the battery takes over, providing power for the night before recharging from the grid 2am-5am at 19p/unit. **The app can also run the house in self-contained mode, prioritising the solar energy for the house and battery and only exporting surplus once the battery is fully charged.** We tried this while waiting to switch to the Flux tariff and ran the house for over a week without using any power from the grid at all.

Ian

To find out how you can save with solar, call our specialist team today



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