

**Now you can buy your energy the same way that big companies and institutions do – ONLY through the Parish Buying Scheme.**



**Plug yourselves  
into the energy  
basket now!**

Already hundreds of parishes, schools, cathedrals and diocesan offices have joined the Parish Buying service to obtain the best broker prices available for their energy consumption. This has resulted in some remarkable savings.


Now, in 2013, we can bring a second phase of saving – going direct to wholesale suppliers to negotiate a deal for a large block of electricity and gas. Major retailers, NHS Trusts, national and local government buy in this way and now for the first time across the Church we can pool our energy and negotiate a “basket” deal.

## Three ways to buy energy


**① Renew with your current supplier.** The easiest way of buying energy, and usually the most profitable... for the supplier! If you do shop around, they may offer to match a better price – but this simply shows how uncompetitive they were. If they could have offered you that price, why didn't they?

**② Use a consultant or broker** to trawl the market to find the best available price. Until now, this is what we've been able to offer through Parish Buying. Our energy consultancy has helped parishes to find the best deal the market will offer at a particular time for their individual block of consumption. The more energy you use, the better the price you'll be offered. Check your broker commission, though, as not all broker fees are the same.

**③ Join an energy basket.** Using professional consultants, Parish Buying appoints an energy supplier to supply our 'basket' of churches, schools and cathedrals. We negotiate a small management fee, and then buy energy in bulk on the wholesale market. We expect the basket to be the equivalent of over 1,000 parishes, giving the cheapest way of purchasing electricity or gas.



Typical savings of 10%



Expected further savings of 10% to 15%

## The benefits

**Save money** – Negotiating in bulk will bring even greater savings – we expect prices to be at least 10% lower than the best price an individual parish could achieve on their own.

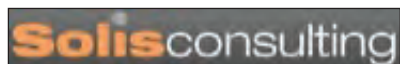
**Peace of mind** - Contracts may start off competitive, but so often renewal prices are sharply higher, meaning another trawl around the market to find a better quote. We are using professional consultants to operate the scheme. Parishes should never need to worry again about whether or not they are getting the best deal, since the price we achieve working together should always be able to beat the price individual churches can secure. We will report progress regularly on the Parish Buying website.

**Buying and Saving together** – by working together, we help one another benefit.

## Who's behind this?



The Parish Buying service is operated by the National Procurement Group. This includes national, diocesan and parish representatives to ensure a high quality service, significant savings, and to help parishes buy with confidence and exercise good stewardship.



Solis Consulting are the only approved energy consultants for the Parish Buying service. Solis are working on our behalf to bring the basket together, to purchase the bulk energy in the market and ensure that the supplier provides a great service.

## Your questions answered:

### What is an energy basket?

When energy is bought in bulk it is known as a basket deal. This enables individual members to get more attractive prices than their individual volume would obtain from a broker.

### Who can join the basket?

Any Church of England linked organisation, including parishes, diocesan offices, cathedrals, church schools. Vicarages are not yet eligible.

### How much will I save?

We expect savings of at least 10% compared with the best price available to a parish purchasing its energy on its own. If you don't use a broker every time your contract comes up for renewal, you may save considerably more.

### Can I still join if my electricity or gas contract renewal is due after 1st September 2013?

Yes! If your electricity or gas contract ends before October 2015, you can join, but will need to sign up by the 15th June 2013, and will move across to the basket on expiry of your current contract.

### What if I have a contract which ends after 1st October 2015?

Please log your details so we can advise you nearer the time how you can benefit.

### Is it free to join?

Yes! There is no charge to join the basket. This service is paid for by a small commission received from the energy supplier.

### Who will I pay?

The selected energy supplier (offering the best value) will bill each member organisation separately, just like your current arrangement.

### Are you offering a green energy basket?

We'd like to, but we are still building volume to reach the amount of energy needed to create a green basket. The Parish Buying website offers green energy contracts.

### Need more help?

If you have questions relating to your current energy contract please contact Solis on 0800 980 3959 or email: [parishbuying@solisconsulting.co.uk](mailto:parishbuying@solisconsulting.co.uk)

## How can I join or find out more?

### Either

❶ Download a pack of further information from [www.parishbuying.org.uk/energybasket](http://www.parishbuying.org.uk/energybasket). This will give you everything you need to sign up.

or

❷ Complete the form on the next page, and send it with a full copy of your latest bill (if you are interested in gas and electricity please send a copy of both bills) to Parish Buying, 26 Prospect Drive, Llandaff, Cardiff, CF5 2HN. If you can scan your bill, you can send it with the information we need via email to: [energy@parishbuying.org.uk](mailto:energy@parishbuying.org.uk). A member of the Parish Buying team will then send you a pack of further information and details on how to sign up.

If you have general questions on the Parish Buying service contact: 0800 368 0887;  
email [energy@parishbuying.org.uk](mailto:energy@parishbuying.org.uk), or for more information visit [www.parishbuying.org.uk](http://www.parishbuying.org.uk)

# Data Collection Form

For more information on the Parish Buying Energy basket and a sign up pack please provide the following information:

Contact name:

Telephone number:

Email:

Site name:

Address:

Postcode:

Electricity Contract End (Renewal) Date:

Gas Contract End (Renewal) Date:

A complete copy (not just the first page) of your most recent electricity and/or gas bill is also required. If you are interested in gas and electricity please send a full copy of both bills.

Please send this form and a complete copy of your recent energy bill(s) to:

Parish Buying  
26 Prospect Drive  
Llandaff, Cardiff,  
CF5 2HN



## Plug yourselves into the energy basket now!

**The  
cheapest  
way to buy  
energy**

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