

THE ECOLOGY GUIDE TO SIMPLE SUSTAINABLE SAVINGS



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SAVING MONEY CAN MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT!

Saving money is an important part of your financial planning.

But did you know that **the way you save** and **who you save your money with** could also have a positive impact on the environment and the way we live?

To provide future generations with a more sustainable way of living, we need to radically rethink how we spend and save our money.

Simply by saving with a sustainable or ethical provider you can actively contribute to positive change.



This *Ecology Guide* will help you navigate through the world of ethical and sustainable finance. We will:

- ✓ Look at the reasons to save sustainably
- ✓ Consider how green your savings are - where exactly *does* your money go?
- ✓ Discuss 'greenwashing' and ethical finance
- ✓ Look at ways of choosing the right ethical provider
- ✓ Look at the types of sustainable savings products available
- ✓ Show you how Ecology's savers fund ecological homes and sustainable communities



Pauline Crawford is Savings Product Manager at Ecology Building Society.

ANY QUESTIONS? ASK PAULINE...

No-one knows more than Pauline about sustainable savings products that help tackle climate change and promote sustainable construction and retrofitting of the UK's housing stock.



REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD SAVE

Saving money contributes both to your financial security and to your health and well-being, though we understand saving can be hard, especially during a cost of living crisis. Despite the struggles, saving money has never been more important, here's why...

SOME STATS...

68% of UK adults have some money in savings with an average of £11,185 per person.



However, almost half (46%) have savings less than £1,000.



More worryingly, 1 in 6 UK adults have no savings at all, that's around 8.7 million people!



Based on average monthly household income spend, you would struggle to survive more than a month from savings alone.

Source: 2024 Finder survey: finder.com/uk/savings-accounts/saving-statistics



1. Financial Security

Saving money contributes to long-term financial security. It helps you achieve financial goals such as buying a home, starting a family, funding education, or going on holiday.



2. Safety Net/Emergency Fund

A safety net helps you cover unexpected expenses such as car repairs or a sudden job loss and avoids accumulating high-interest debt by using your savings not credit cards or loans.



3. Peace of Mind

Reduce financial anxiety and stress, allowing you to navigate life's challenges more comfortably and make decisions based on long-term goals rather than short-term financial constraints.



4. Flexibility

Having a fund to fall back provides a cushion during times of redundancy or between jobs; work part-time; retire early; or spend time pursuing a hobby or vocation.



5. Invest/Helping Others

You can use your accumulated savings to explore various investment options (e.g. stock market) or help others like family members, charities or community organisations.

REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD SAVE SUSTAINABLY

1. Environmental Impact

Sustainable saving can play a role in addressing the climate emergency; it can help reduce waste, conserve natural resources, and minimise the carbon footprint.



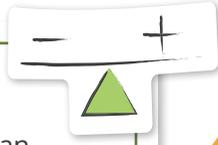
2. Social Responsibility

Sustainable investments can support companies that prioritise ethical business practices, social responsibility initiatives and positive environmental change.



3. Long-Term Economic Stability

Investing in sustainable businesses can create jobs and stimulate economic growth, developing a more resilient and stable economy no longer reliant on fossil fuels and diminishing resources.



4. Health & Well-Being

Investing in products and services that are environmentally friendly promote and develop a better living environment for all (e.g. carbon neutral, cleaner air and water).



5. Future Generations

By making environmentally and socially responsible choices today, you contribute to a better world for future generations to inherit a planet with ample resources and opportunities.





**HOW GREEN
ARE YOUR
SAVINGS?**

WHAT ARE GREEN SAVINGS?

While it may not seem an obvious contributor to our climate crisis, the way you save your money can have a direct impact on the planet.

Green savings refer to savings that are invested in environmentally friendly projects or institutions, from renewable energy and sustainable agriculture to clean transportation and a more sustainably built environment.

By investing in such projects, you are directly supporting the growth of industries that are working towards a more sustainable society.

Aren't My Savings Already Green?

In recent years, there has been increasing public concern about the ethical and environmental responsibility of banks and other financial institutions. In a 2021 survey*, 60% of those polled said they would leave their bank if they found out it was linked to environmental or social harm.

As a result, financial institutions are under increasing pressure to come clean about their environmental credentials. Despite commitments by the larger banks, including HSBC, Barclays and Natwest, to achieve net zero by 2050 it is still not clear how committed they are to a truly carbon neutral, sustainable future.

A recent ShareAction report, investigating the green targets of Europe's 20 largest banks, found:

“

[the banks'] green targets and disclosures are not fit for purpose and could lead to misleading claims – aka greenwashing. These banks are trying to make themselves look better and greener than they actually are.

”

*businessgreen.com/news/4025396/poll-uk-banking-customers-demanding-greener-financial-services

OUR SURVEY SAID...



In 2023 Ecology commissioned its own report on attitudes to sustainable banking, our survey found:



45% of respondents believed they were already with a sustainable or ethical savings provider but were less certain on what they were doing in this space.



54% said the reason for not being with a sustainable or ethical provider was that they didn't know such providers existed.

GREENWASHING

Greenwashing refers to the practice of giving an unfounded or exaggerated impression of, or commitment to, sustainability in a company's products, services, or business practices.

Greenwashing presents a misleading image that a company is more environmentally responsible than it actually is.

This can be done through misleading advertising, marketing, or public relations strategies that overstate the positive environmental aspects of a company while downplaying or concealing its negative impacts or by making claims with no evidence.

Greenwashing is particularly pertinent to the banking sector where stated commitments to a carbon neutral future is undermined by ongoing investing in fossil fuels and deforestation.

DID YOU KNOW...

Since the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015 the world's 60 biggest banks have invested \$5.5 trillion in fossil fuels.

Banks still funding fossil fuels include such familiar UK High Street names as Barclays, HSBC, Santander, Natwest, and Lloyds. In fact, the bank that is Europe's biggest funder of fossil fuels claims on its website to be 'dedicated to helping companies take action to address the environmental and sustainability challenges facing our planet!'

Detecting greenwashing means looking beyond the green PR machine, the eco-friendly labels and symbols, and requires consumers to scrutinize environmental claims and assess whether a company's actions align with its purported commitment to sustainability.



ASSESSING THE GREENNESS OF YOUR SAVINGS

There are several factors to consider when it comes to assessing the greenness of your savings, the most important of which is looking at where your money is invested.

This can be more difficult than it first appears. It may be easier to understand with a building society, as typically money is used to lend to borrowers for a mortgage. With banks, however, your savings can also be invested with other companies and services, which might not be aligned to green values. So how can we know?

Fortunately, there are a number of organisations and watchdogs who work to expose greenwashing and promote transparency in environmental communications. They include:

Banking on Climate Chaos

You can download their comprehensive *Fossil Fuel Finance Report 2023* which assesses the world's leading banks in terms of their funding of fossil fuel production.

[Banking on Climate Chaos](#)



Bank.green

A useful online tool to find out where your money goes. They give a climate score to financial institutions according to their contribution to funding the climate crisis.

[Bank.green](#)



Mother Tree

Mother Tree have produced a useful bank league table based on how much £10,000 in a current account contributes in carbon emissions.

[Mother Tree](#)



Forests & Finance

Evaluates the financing of those engaged in the supply chains of beef, soy, palm oil, paper, rubber, and timber which can harm tropical forests and their communities.

[Forests and Finance](#)



The Good Shopping Guide

This site offers a useful comparison table rating the ethical and environmental impact of the UK's leading banks and building societies.

[The Good Shopping Guide](#)



Ethical Consumer

An independent, not-for-profit organisation which ranks savings accounts and ISAs based on the financial providers' sustainable and ethical practices.

[Ethical Consumer](#)



Good With Money

Another independent organisation focusing on the ethics of financial institutions and ranks the top savings accounts based on social and environmental values.

[Good With Money](#)



GREEN CERTIFICATES AND STANDARDS

Although one should be wary of bogus eco labels and symbols, there are some third-party certifications with more meaningful value. These can show that a product or institution meets certain environmental standards such as using renewable energy, reducing waste, or using sustainable materials.

Check out the [Forest Stewardship Council](#), which certifies sustainably harvested wood products and the [Rainforest Alliance](#) whose aim is to protect forests, improve the livelihoods of farmers and communities and help them mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis.



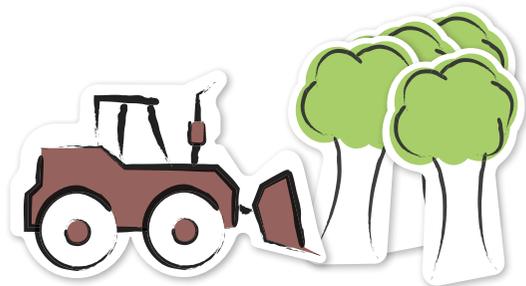
3 WHERE DOES MY MONEY GO?



DO I KNOW WHERE MY MONEY GOES?

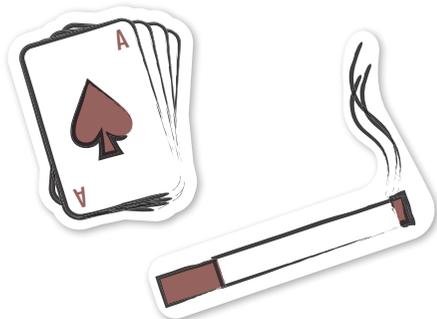
According to the United Nations, global emissions need to be significantly reduced by around 45% by 2030 compared to 2010 levels in order to stop the worst effects of the climate crisis.

Despite this urgency, as we saw in our previous chapter, the world's biggest banks have invested \$5.5 trillion in fossil fuels since the Paris Agreement in 2015. Rainforests are being destroyed at an alarming rate for cash crops such as palm oil, soy, beef, timber and paper, destroying delicate eco-systems, traditional farming techniques and their communities. Along with human rights violations, arms dealing, gambling and tobacco, there is a great deal of business we might regard as unethical and/or environmentally unsustainable.



As well as investing in coal, gas and oil production, banks also finance high carbon-emitting sectors such as manufacturing, transport, steel production, petrochemicals as well as agricultural sectors that impact on forests and other eco-systems.

As a sustainable saver, the question you have to ask is this:



Are my savings being used to finance industries which leave a negative impact on the planet and what, if anything, is my bank doing to steer them towards net zero/more ethical trading practices?



HOW CAN I KNOW WHERE MY MONEY GOES?

Knowing exactly how your savings are being used can be difficult to determine. There are a number of reasons why:

- Many companies do not disclose the environmental or social impact of their business.
- They may have complex supply chains that make it hard to trace the origin of their products.
- Large financial institutions have such a complex and diverse portfolio of global investments and underwriting it is unlikely you could ever know exactly how your money is being used.

Smaller, ethically-driven banks and building societies are generally more transparent in their dealings and disclosures. The Good Shopping Guide's (GSG) ethical comparison table shows that the top 10 ranking ethical institutions are dominated by small niche banks and building societies. The lowest rated are mostly large multinational corporations.

Top 5 companies rated by GSG



Brand Name	GSG Ethical Score
Charity Bank	100
Ecology Building Society	98
Triodos Bank	98
Leeds Building Society	85
Nationwide Building Society	85

Bottom 5 companies rated by GSG



Brand Name	GSG Ethical Score
Barclays	21
First Direct	21
HSBC	21
CITI	18
Chase	17

WHICH FINANCIAL PROVIDER CAN YOU TRUST?

So when it comes to sustainability, who can you trust with your savings? Here are two things to consider:

1. Transparency vs Greenwashing

The large financial institutions' attitudes to a sustainable future, as we have seen, are somewhat problematic. Despite their stated commitments to a carbon neutral future how can you be sure that what they say is backed up by genuine positive action and not simply a case of 'greenwashing'?

2. Profit vs Planet

As well as transparency, another problem when it comes to sustainability is the way some of these businesses work. Large financial institutions are usually multinational corporations investing in, underwriting and lending to a diverse client base and whose business model is driven by shareholders seeking a quick and healthy return of their investments. In the case of many CEOs short-term shareholder profit is a higher priority than a longer-term sustainable planet.



PAULINE SAYS...

“ Smaller ethically-led providers like Ecology are mutuals, owned by their members. Nine out of ten of the providers who achieved *The Good Shopping Guide's* benchmark score or above have mutual status. ”



WE WANTED TO SAVE WITH ECOLOGY BUILDING SOCIETY BECAUSE IT GIVES US GREAT PLEASURE KNOWING OUR MONEY IS INVESTED FOR THE GOOD OF THE PLANET.

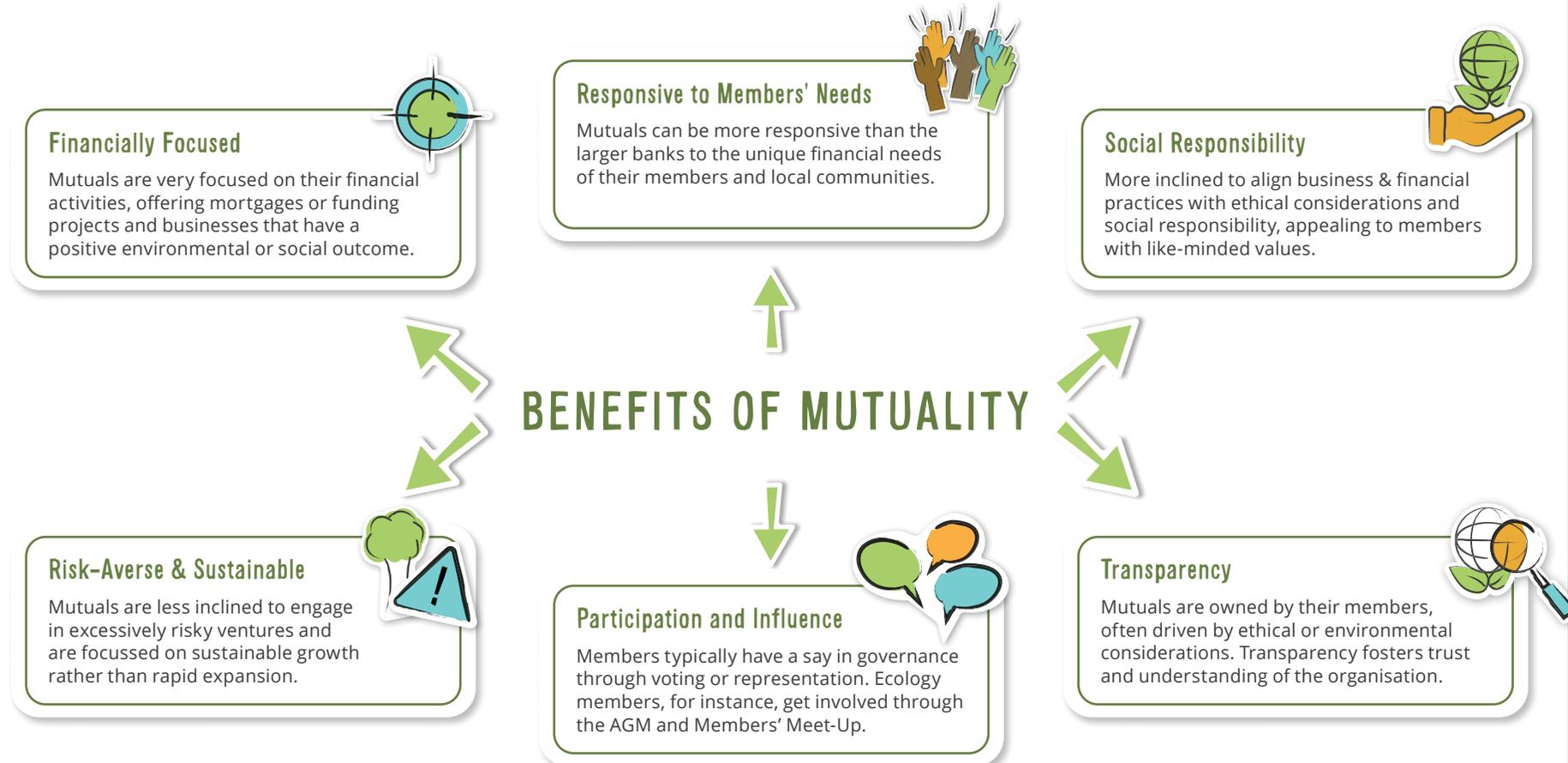


- Pam, Ecology member

BENEFITS OF MUTUALITY

Building societies, like Ecology, are owned by their members, who are also their customers.

This ownership structure often leads to a strong customer-centric focus as decisions are made with the members' best interests in mind. In the case of Ecology, for instance, our members are concerned about sustainability and the living environment. **We use our members' savings to fund mortgages only to individuals and communities that make a positive environmental impact as well as giving our savers a fair financial return.** As a mutual, we prioritize building long-term relationships with our members rather than maximizing short-term profits.





**WHERE YOUR
MONEY GOES
WITH ECOLOGY**

INTEGRITY AND TRANSPARENCY

Knowing exactly where your savings goes can be difficult to determine in large financial institutions with complex lending and underwriting structures, driven by shareholder profit and where future environmental and ethical commitments are undermined by current investment in fossil fuels and deforestation.

Integrity and transparency is key to understanding where your money goes.

That's why at Ecology we are up-front about our commitment to providing funds for properties and projects that have a positive environmental or social impact and more than happy to demonstrate where our savers' money goes.

It is important not just to *tell* our members what we do with their money but actively *show* the positive results of our lending through case studies, webinars and face-to-face at members' meet-ups and the AGM.

In these next few pages we will demonstrate exactly where our savers' money goes and how our funding benefits communities and the environment.



WE INVEST IN



SUSTAINABILITY



ECO-FRIENDLY HOMES



AFFORDABLE HOMES



COMMUNITIES



OUR TALENTED WORKFORCE



OUR MEMBERS



WE DON'T INVEST IN



FOSSIL FUELS



DEFORESTATION



GAMBLING



ARMAMENTS



TOBACCO



UNSUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIES

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

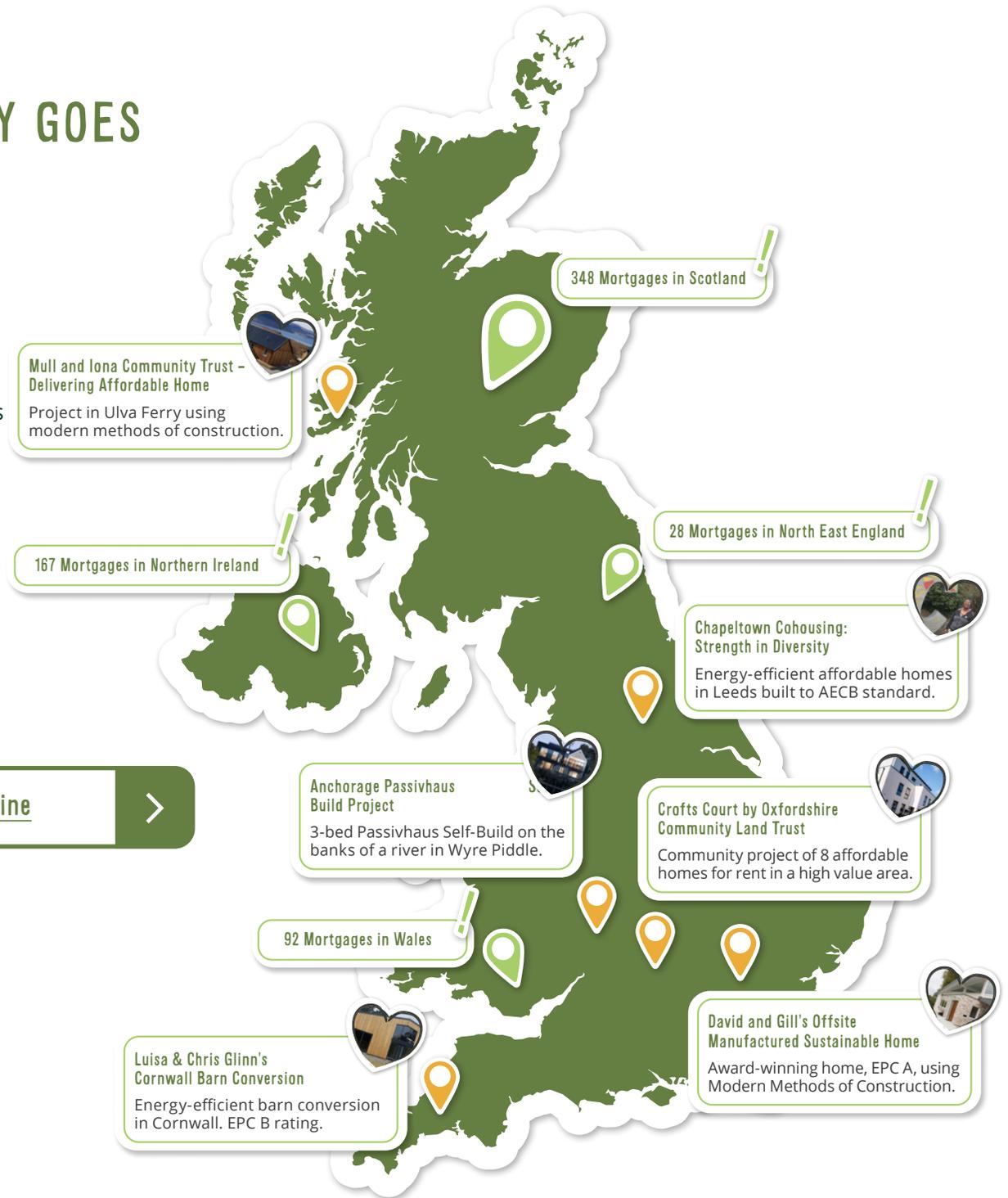
When you save with Ecology, you do something amazing.

By saving with us, you help to fund innovative green and sustainable homes and businesses across the UK. We're proud to support these inspiring projects and want you to be too.

Here are a small selection of projects we have helped over the years.

You can find out more about how many projects we're currently supporting together, along with more case studies, by clicking the link below.

[Check out more inspiring stories online](#) >



GLOBAL LINK – BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

This is the inspirational story of Global Link, their determined leader, and the thousands of people who have been touched by the essential work they do every day.

For us to be a small part of Global Link's story is our reason for being at Ecology. Like Gisella, Executive Director of Global Link, says, "Attending the Ecology AGM each year is really inspiring and motivational because delivering these kinds of projects is challenging, meeting and sharing stories with so many people on a similar journey to myself always brings me back to my 'why'."

What is Global Link?

Global Link is a Lancaster-based Development Education Centre, formed in 1993, originally focussing on global citizenship education and community heritage projects with schools and the wider community.

When Lancaster became a dispersal area for asylum seekers and refugees in 2015 Global Link supported these arrivals with small-scale lunch drop-ins.

From the lunches, Global Link started to run English classes and activities to help people integrate into the community. It was all about cohesion and bringing people together.

These drop-ins became increasingly popular not only with refugees but also with locals and creating real sense of community spirit. Over time, services grew to the point where a permanent home was needed.



KEY DETAILS

Location:
North West England

Features:
Community-led project in Lancashire - building an educational and community centre for refugees

Energy Standards Rating: N/A

Funding The Project

Through a combination of crowd-funding and a mortgage from Ecology they managed to find and renovate their own education centre.

“I was so amazed by the crowdfunding effort,” says Gisella, “especially the support from the local community. And both Global Link and myself have been a member of Ecology for around 30 years, so I knew that you would be able to help me with a project like this.”

The big challenge, however, wasn't the funding but finding the right building.

After two years of searching and being outbid, they were giving up hope. Then one day, the person who runs the sewing circle for refugees found out that Kathy Barton was selling her building, and she didn't want to sell it to a student housing developer with no interest in sustainability. Kathy is a climate change activist who believes in the power of community.

Global Link approached her, and the rest is history!

Bring the Community Together

Gisella says: “What's been so beautiful about the building process is the amount of people who have volunteered their time and money to support it. You know, we haven't calculated that yet, the support from the community and the many refugees and asylum seekers we've helped over the years. They're all still involved with us. They continue to support the work we're doing because we support them.

And I guess that's what being a Global Citizen is all about.”

“

What I would say is that without the Ecology Building Society mortgage, we would never have been able to complete this project. That extra cash boost helped us to get the building renovated into the working education centre you see today.

”

- Gisella

BUNKER SELF-BUILD: AFFORDABLE, ENERGY-EFFICIENT FAMILY HOMES

Bunker Housing Co-op was a response to the spiralling and unaffordable house prices and sub-standard rental accommodation in Brighton and Hove.

Property prices in Brighton and Hove are amongst the highest in the country with the median house price in 2018 standing at over 11 times the median salary of local residents. As a result, adequate housing remains out of reach for many, particularly those on lower incomes.

Bunker was the brainchild of Martyn Holmes and Agata Bogacka who live in Brighton with their children. Together with a neighbouring family, they were inspired by a vision of an alternative to cramped, damp, overpriced accommodation to form a housing co-operative with the ambition of self-building their own homes. An Ecology interest-only mortgage provided funding for the build phase and gave the families time to move house and be in a position to pay rents to the co-op. The overall mortgage term of 40 years has also ensured that the project is financially sustainable for current and future members of the co-op.

The houses themselves were built using a modular off-site construction method. The resulting homes are filled with natural light, providing a healthy living environment which maintains a constant ambient temperature due to excellent insulation, triple glazing and underfloor heating. Project like this use more sustainable materials, produce more energy-efficient homes and reduces the long-term carbon footprint.

Ground-breaking affordable and sustainable projects like this are what Ecology's all about and precisely what our savers money is used for.



KEY DETAILS



Location:

South East England

Features:

Self-build housing co-op creating affordable, energy-efficient homes using a modular offsite construction method

Energy Standards Rating: EPC A

Bunker is now looking ahead to its next phase and is working alongside Brighton and Hove City Council to identify other potential sites throughout the city with the aim of building a further 15 affordable homes.

Commenting on the project's progress so far, co-op member, Martyn, says:

“ I do think this is something that more people can do and will do. A lot of other groups in the city are looking to us and seeing what we've done, seeing that it's actually happening. It's a lot of hard work but it's a really viable alternative. I think that when people realise that this is an option, it's one that a lot of them would choose. ”



OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

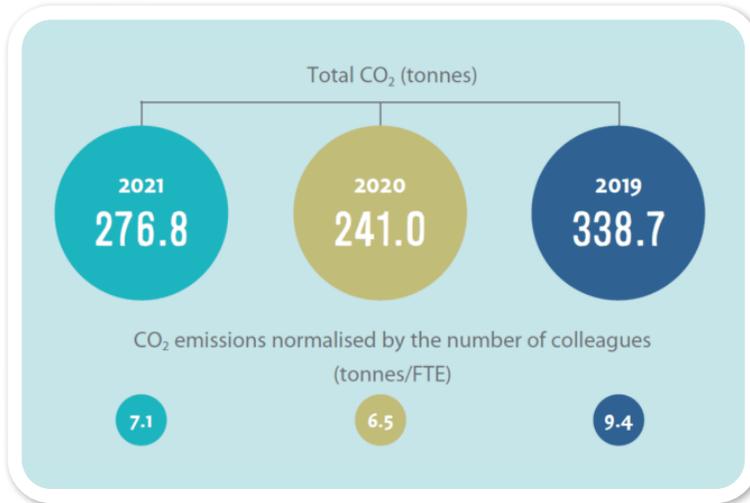
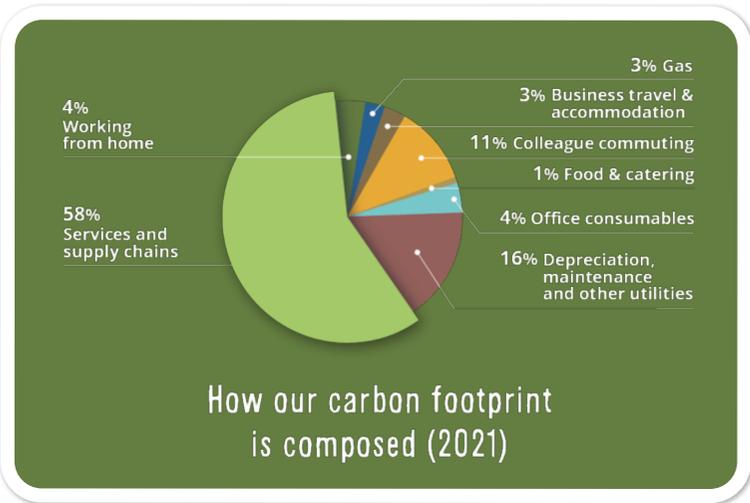
As a business whose main aim is to promote sustainability, we are more than happy to come clean about our own environmental impact. We actively seek to reduce energy consumption, water usage and waste generation in our day-to-day running.

Our Offices

Our eco-build offices use photovoltaic panels to generate electricity and windows are double glazed. A heat exchanger and high-efficiency condensing boiler is used to assist our renewable technologies in maintaining a comfortable temperature. Wherever possible, materials used in the building are from renewable sources, recycled or low toxicity. Our sedum nature roof provides a habitat for birds and insects, and a rain water harvesting system supplies the water for our toilets, water the roof and the gardens.

Our Carbon Footprint

We have reported the carbon footprint of our business operations since 2012, calculated by Small World Consulting, a team based at Lancaster University and led by footprinting expert Mike Berners-Lee.



Carbon emissions arising from the Society's business operations, commuting and supply chains



CHOOSING A SUSTAINABLE SAVINGS ACCOUNT

TYPES OF SAVINGS ACCOUNT

There are various types of savings accounts designed to meet different financial needs. The most common include:

Regular Savings Account

This is a basic savings account usually with no specific restrictions. It typically offers low to moderate interest rates.

Limited or Restricted Savings Account

Usually offers higher interest rates than most regular savings accounts. Often comes with restrictions, such as: requiring a higher initial deposit, maintaining a minimum balance or requiring a specific notice period for withdrawals.

Cash ISA

A Cash Individual Savings Account (Cash ISA) is a tax-efficient savings account offering:

- Tax-Free Interest: interest earned on savings is exempt from income tax.
- No Capital Gains Tax: Any capital gains generated from the investment growth within a Cash ISA are also tax-free.
- Annual ISA Allowance: There is an annual limit on the amount that can be deposited into a Cash ISA. This limit is set by the government and may change each tax year. The current 2023/24 ISA allowance is £20,000
- You don't need to declare your ISA on your tax return.

Easy Access ISA

An Individual Savings Account that offers instant access to your money.

- Best option for flexibility and emergency funds.
- Can be lower rates because of the instant access.



PAULINE SAYS...

“ Regularly review your savings. Your needs change but so can the account.

Remember to maximise your ISA Allowance – it builds up over time. ”

CHOOSING THE RIGHT SUSTAINABLE ACCOUNT

The savings products on the previous page are available from wide range of financial providers.

Deciding which one is best for you is dependent on a number of factors, these might include:

- Interest rate
- The amount you want to save
- Your attitude to risk
- How soon or how easily you'll need to access your savings

SUSTAINABLE SAVINGS - SOME CONSIDERATIONS:

- IS MY PROVIDER USING MY MONEY ETHICALLY?
- WHAT KINDS OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES IS IT BEING INVESTED IN?
- DOES IT BENEFIT PEOPLE AND THE PLANET?
- WILL IT HELP REDUCE OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT AND SUSTAIN COMMUNITIES?



So how do we find out which is the 'best' saving account as well as being in line with our green and ethical values?

Like most people, you're probably looking out to get the best deal. Online comparison sites are often the first place you'll start to look. And such sites can help you make more informed decisions, but there's a catch...



THE PROBLEM WITH PRICE COMPARISONS SITES

All too often a price comparison site's 'best ISA' or 'best savings account' is based purely on interest rates and notice periods. They assume their customers are only after one thing: to maximise their return on investment. No questions asked. There is little focus on what the *consequences* might be in the world beyond the drive for individual gain.

To save sustainably, it is essential to think beyond the APR and AER and better understand how your personal financial goals are intimately linked to wider, more consequential, environmental, ethical and social ends.

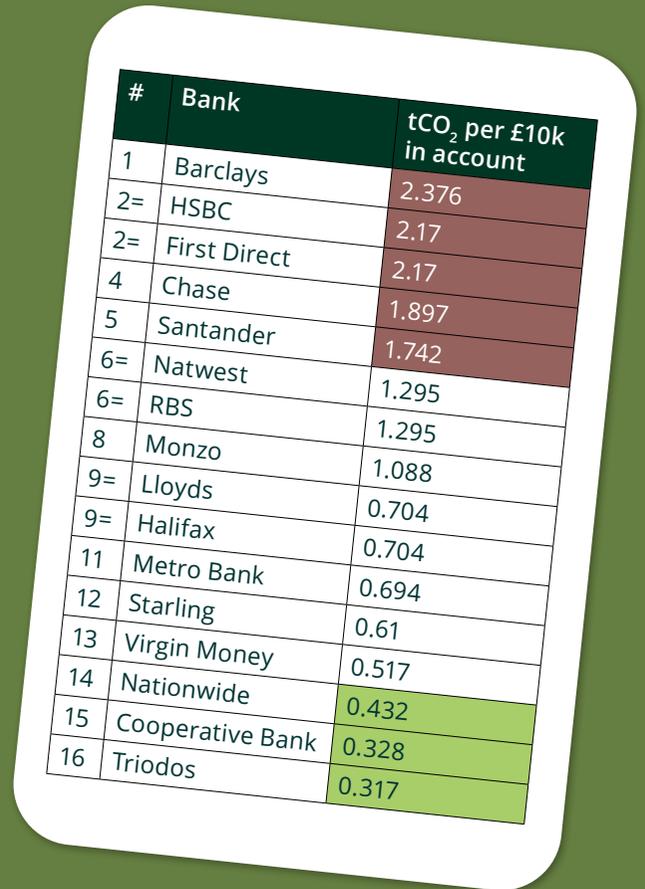
Alternative Ways To Choose Your Savings Provider

There are, of course, alternatives to the high profile price comparison sites. We have discussed some of these earlier on [pages 11 and 12](#). Organisations like *Ethical Consumer* and *Good Shopping Guide* base their criteria of 'best in class' on ethics, politics, environmental impact and transparency.

Another example is *MotherTree* which provides information about a bank's carbon footprint and allows you to switch your current account to a provider with a much healthier one. Their banking comparison table (see right) is based on how much £10,000 in a current account contributes in carbon emissions and underscores the problem of banks saying one thing about sustainability while still contributing significantly to our global carbon footprint.

Importantly, it demonstrates that by switching to a more ethical provider, you, as an individual saver, can make a positive difference.

CLIMATE IMPACT OF UK BANKS*



#	Bank	tCO ₂ per £10k in account
1	Barclays	2.376
2=	HSBC	2.17
2=	First Direct	2.17
4	Chase	1.897
5	Santander	1.742
6=	Natwest	1.295
6=	RBS	1.295
8	Monzo	1.088
9=	Lloyds	0.704
9=	Halifax	0.704
11	Metro Bank	0.694
12	Starling	0.61
13	Virgin Money	0.517
14	Nationwide	0.432
15	Cooperative Bank	0.328
16	Triodos	0.317

*Source: Mother Tree
(mymothertree.com/bank-league-table)

*Ecology does not feature on this league table because we do not provide current accounts, although we do offer a range of sustainable savings accounts ([see page 30](#)).

ECOLOGY'S SUSTAINABILITY RATINGS

At Ecology, we are proud to have been rated as a **Best Buy** by **Ethical Consumer** magazine for our mortgages, ISAs and savings accounts in its product guide rankings.

And **Good With Money** gave us a **Good Egg** mark which is awarded only to companies that make a positive impact in the world.



PAULINE SAYS...

“ Don't assume all accounts and providers are the same.

Find a product/provider that matches with your values. ”



“ I WANTED TO INVEST MY MONEY SOMEWHERE I TRUST ”

Caroline joined Ecology in 2012, after looking for ethical financial options online.

Caroline chose Ecology because she wanted to put her money to work for things she believes in: “I wanted to know that my savings would not be used unethically, such as supporting arms deals”. One day she hopes to build her own eco-home or join a housing co-operative, so it made sense to support a building society that lends in these areas.

“Now I know that the money I save is helping other people – it means so much to me. I’m very happy... Thank you!”



OUR SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

OUR RANGE OF ETHICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Our range of simple and transparent ethical savings accounts work for you and the planet. A minimum investment of £10 can get you started, and you invest up to a maximum of £500,000. Limits apply to each account type.

ECOLOGY CASH ISA

A simple and transparent Cash ISA where you can pay in and withdraw whenever needed and save up to £20,000 this tax year.

[Find out more...](#)



35-DAY NOTICE

A medium-term variable rate savings account with a notice period of 35 days for withdrawals. Also available to open in a young person's name or on behalf of a child.

[Find out more...](#)



180-DAY NOTICE

A long-term variable rate savings account with a notice period of 180 days for withdrawals. Also available to open in a young person's name or on behalf of a child.

[Find out more...](#)



EASY ACCESS

A simple and transparent savings account, pay in and withdraw whenever needed, save up to £500,000 and receive the same interest rate whatever your balance. Also available to open in a young person's name or on behalf of a child.

[Find out more...](#)



REGULAR SAVINGS

A limited access monthly savings account, save between £10 to £250 a month up to a maximum of £3,000 per calendar year. Also available to open in a young person's name or on behalf of a child.

[Find out more...](#)



HOW DO I APPLY?

Applying for an account is simple. We'll guide you through the process step by step.



1

Register with our online service or log in to your account below



2

Fill in our online application form



3

Start saving for a greener future

NEW TO ECOLOGY?

You'll need to register with us before you apply for an Easy Access Savings Account.

[Register Online Today](#)



EXISTING MEMBER?

If you're an existing Ecology member, log in to your account online or register for our online service to apply

[Login To Apply](#)



[Register For Our Online Service](#)



SAVING FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

By investing in sustainable products and services you can make a positive contribution to the development of clean technologies and renewable energy sources, to more sustainable business practices and lifestyles that minimise the carbon footprint, mitigates climate change and protects our precious natural resources.

LINDY AND DANIEL'S STORY

At Ecology Building Society the money from our savings and ISA accounts power the funding for sustainable lending to properties and projects that support communities and have a positive impact on the environment. Lindy and Daniel have been savers with Ecology since the 1980s and used these savings to fund their own home energy-efficient enhancements.

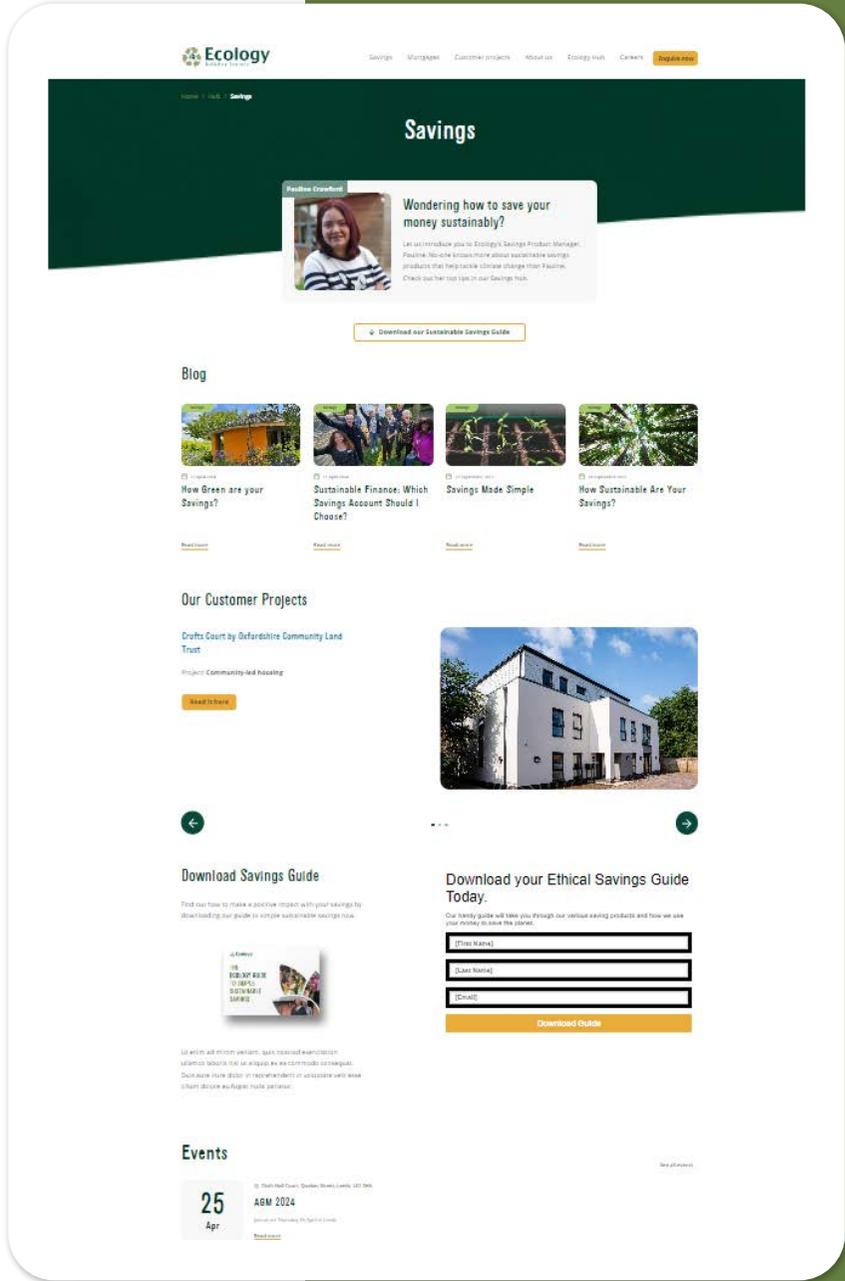
The couple immediately made environmental improvements to their property, starting with wall and loft insulation and then, most recently, installing solar panels with battery storage. They paid for these using savings they'd built up with Ecology. Then, last year, the couple withdrew additional funds to replace two downstairs windows with double-glazed alternatives, and also to pay for an air source heat pump. The pump and the solar panels mean they no longer need to use gas, reducing their carbon emissions and fuel bills in the longer term. They're hopeful the savings on their fuel bills will help them to top up their savings account again, allowing them to fund further energy-efficient improvements in the future too!



STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH OUR ONLINE SAVINGS HUB

The Ecology Savings Hub is *the* go-to online resource and support centre for all things in sustainable renovation.

- Keep abreast of the latest in environmentally friendly and sustainable ways to save.
- Sign up to our exclusive webinars from industry experts
- Read our latest articles and case studies



Disclaimer

This Guide is for information only. We don't offer financial advice, so it is important that you understand the risk. If you're not sure, please consult a qualified financial advisor. Ecology Building Society has made every attempt to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information provided. Tax treatment depends on your individual circumstances. The information in this Guide is based on our understanding of UK tax rules and legislation as at 6th April 2024. // EBSSAV 150424 001

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