



Saving energy
at home*



Fact sheet:

Renewable energy



What it means to choose a green star product

Products marked with the green star are designed to help customers identify items within our ranges with a focus on reducing environmental impacts. Customers can use the information provided to filter and understand more about the products they're interested in or have purchased.

Why renewable energy matters

There has been increased take up of renewable energy on residential homes. In France, the [capacity of residential photovoltaic \(PV\) energy systems](#) has increased over 4.7 times between 2010 and 2022. In the UK, the [Energy Saving Trust](#) estimates that over 1 million homes now generate electricity from solar or wind. A survey in February 2022 found that [4.5% of homes in northern and southern Spain already have solar photovoltaic panels](#) and over 34% were interested in installing them.

Generating renewable energy creates lower levels of emissions than burning fossil fuels ([United Nations, Climate Action](#)).

Renewable energy includes solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower and ocean energy (tidal and waves), but many of these sources are more suitable for non-residential energy generation. Microgeneration sources include solar and wind.

Heat pumps are often classified as renewable as the energy they produce is derived from renewable sources. But as they still require some electricity to operate the pump, they are included in the Heating Homes factsheet.

If a home has solar PV panels, running electrical devices (for example, washing machines and dishwashers) during the day can help to make use of the electricity produced. Timers and smart home controls can help with this. Using a home battery will enable use of the electricity at other times of the day.

Criteria 1:

How we assess green star products



Before assessment, every green star product must meet:

- **All relevant legal requirements**
- **All Kingfisher policy requirements**

You can access the [Kingfisher policies here](#). These include Human Rights, Supply Chain Workplace Standards and Sustainable Packaging.

Products are also checked against a Watch List. The watch list contains several criteria or features, relevant to the product type, that if present disqualify the product from being marked with a green star. The relevant Watch List can be found at the end of this factsheet. The Watch List is reviewed and revised annually.

Life cycle assessments have not been completed for every green star product, but by employing policies and the Watch List Criteria in Kingfisher's Sustainable Home Product Guidelines, many factors in the life cycle of a product are considered.

The green star 'Renewable Energy' assessment focuses on the in-use phase of the product's life cycle. This is where the product can bring the biggest benefit to the user across its utilisation, however green star excludes products that may have other environmental aspects that are harmful either as a result of manufacture or end of life disposal.

Criteria 2:

Green star programme entry



The criteria for renewable energy is:

Solar thermal systems

- These systems use solar energy to heat water.
- Many systems are designed to use the water heated in a home's taps, showers and baths.

Solar photovoltaic systems

- These systems convert solar energy into electricity.
- Light fittings that include a solar panel are included in the 'Lighting Homes factsheet.

Wind turbines

Renewable energy accessories

- Battery storage
 - A home battery (sometimes called a solar battery) enables more use of energy produced by a home's solar voltaic panels in the home.
- Photovoltaic diverters
- Thermal energy stores

Also, please note that the following are included as criteria, with details in the Heating Homes factsheet:



Heat pumps

- A heat pump works a bit like a fridge in reverse, taking heat from outdoors into the home. Although electricity is used to move the heat, it requires significantly less electricity than, for example, directly heating the same space with an electric heater:
 - Air source heat pumps
 - Ground source heat pumps
 - Heat pump accessories

Micro combined heat and power systems (Micro-CHP):

- These can generate heat and electricity simultaneously from the same energy source. For example, generating electricity while heating water.

Mechanical heat recovery systems:

- Based on ventilation, this type of system uses heat from the air being removed from the home to warm up incoming air.

Please note, there is also related criteria in the green star 'Controlling energy use' and 'Insulating at home' factsheets.

Providing Criteria 1 and 2 have been met, a product can be marked with the green star.

Reviewing and confirming green star status

- ✓ All products nominated and that meet criteria 1 and 2 are assessed internally by our sustainability team and submitted to NGO Bioregional for external validation.
- ✓ Once the external review is conducted, the product can then be confirmed and marked with the green star.
- ✓ A full review is conducted annually to ensure all products continue to meet the selection criteria.

To find out more about NGO Bioregional, [click here](#)

Watch List Criteria relevant to Renewable Energy

This list includes features or aspects of products that make them unsuitable to be marked with the green star:

- ✗ Products powered by burning wood (air pollution concerns).
- ✗ Components made from paper or wood that do not meet Kingfisher's Forest Positive policy.
- ✗ Recycled plastic products where the source of the plastic is unknown and/or cannot be confirmed as being safe.
- ✗ Products where the packaging contains PVC or expanded polystyrene.
- ✗ Products containing palm oil, cotton, rubber or leather with no evidence that the materials have been responsibly sourced.

