

The Big Bank Switch FAQs

What is The Big Bank Switch?

The Big Bank Switch aims to inspire thousands of Christians in the UK to switch to greener banks. Together, we can pressure the banking sector to stop pouring money into harmful industries. The Big Bank Switch is a partnership between three Christian organisations - Just Love, JustMoney Movement and Operation Noah - and Switch It Green.

Why are Christians switching banks?

As Christians, we don't want our money to be supporting activities that are harming the planet and our neighbours around the world. However, most banks in the UK are pouring billions of pounds into destructive fossil fuel companies every year - when this money could be used to help build a sustainable future.

Thousands of people moving their money *en masse* out of the banks that are financing the fossil fuel industry will send a clear message to the banking sector that this funding must end.

By switching to a green bank with The Big Bank Switch, you will be actively supporting a safe and liveable future for all.

What is the connection between banks and the climate crisis?

The driving cause of climate breakdown is fossil fuel expansion - big oil and gas companies ramping up their activities. To continue expanding, these companies rely on big loans and investments from banks.

Banks make their profits by investing in projects, owning shares in other companies, and lending money (with interest). For most banks in the UK, this involves directing a portion of their financing towards companies which are involved in fossil fuel extraction and expansion.

Between 2016 and 2022, banks pumped over £4.4 trillion into the fossil fuel industry.

Without our money and support, banks will struggle to access the funds and infrastructure needed to continue making these harmful decisions. Together, we can help secure a more liveable future for all by choosing to align our money with our values, alongside thousands of others.

Who is organising The Big Bank Switch?

Christian organisations [Just Love](#), [JustMoney Movement](#) and [Operation Noah](#) have partnered with [Switch It Green](#) to bring you The Big Bank Switch, supported by a wider movement of Christian organisations and networks.

Switch It Green is campaigning against harmful funding by banks by logging the numbers of people who are moving their money for environmental reasons. Their [Green Banking Platform](#) ranks all UK current account providers on their fossil fuel credentials and makes switching to a green bank as simple and impactful as possible.

By helping us to show how many customers the banks are losing due to their fossil fuel funding, Switch It Green can put pressure on the banking community to change for good.

What do you mean by a green / fossil-free bank?

We have partnered with Switch It Green to support thousands of Christians to move their money out of fossil fuel support. Switch It Green's [Green Banking Platform](#) ranks all UK current account providers on their fossil fuel credentials and makes switching to a green bank as simple and impactful as possible. The platform highlights green banks which do not invest in fossil fuels or deforestation and have commitments against funding these industries.

What is The Big Bank Switch Pledge?

This Lent, in the lead-up to the official launch of The Big Bank Switch campaign, we are asking Christians to put their faith into greener banking by signing our [fossil-free Pledge](#) - committing to switch to a green bank on or after 21st April (the first Switch It Sunday).

From 21st April, hundreds of Christians will be moving their money out of fossil support on Switch It Green's Green Banking Platform to show the banking community that their harmful investments must end, for the sake of the planet (and their business!).

I've signed the Pledge – what do I do next?

We will be in touch with you soon with further information about how to make your switch. We want as many people to switch together on or after 21st April (the first Switch It Sunday) so that our individual actions can become a collective call for change.

If you've signed [the Pledge](#) - or if you are already with a green bank - please share the campaign with your church, network, family and friends – help us build a bigger, more diverse movement for the biggest impact.

On the [Big Bank Switch Pledge page](#) you'll find a newsletter article you could share with your church or other networks to encourage others to take action.

Do you recommend specific banks to switch to?

Switch It Green's [Green Banking Platform](#) ranks all UK current account providers on their fossil fuel credentials and makes switching to a green bank as simple and impactful as possible.

Switch It Green's platform highlights green banks which do not invest in fossil fuels or deforestation and have commitments against funding these industries.

From 21st April, you will be able to make the switch to a green bank on the Green Banking Platform. We will send you everything you need beforehand so you don't need to fret about doing your own research or getting anything figured out yet.

I'm already with an ethical bank – is there anything else I can do?

Yes! We need as many people as possible to get behind the campaign to help us make a BIG impact.

Here are a few things you can do:

- Double check your bank's fossil fuel credentials at switchit.green
- Spread the word about [The Big Bank Switch](#) to encourage more switchers
- Get your whole community switching - receive free training and resources when you sign up to become a Switching Steward by filling out [this quick form](#)

You can also retrospectively log your switch on the Green Banking Platform to ensure you are counted as part of our collective call for change!

I'd like my church to switch to a greener bank – can you help with that?

The Big Bank Switch is focused on individual switching but we know that many people are looking at their church banking too.

Options for churches are more limited but there are banks you can switch to that have greener, more ethical policies than the big high street banks. JustMoney Movement has produced a [Greener Fairer Banking guide](#) comparing 4 of the more ethical options for churches and charities.

What is Switch It Sunday?

Switch It Sunday (21st April) is an opportunity for your church to get behind The Big Bank Switch campaign - perhaps by praying for a greener banking sector, sharing information about The Big Bank Switch with your congregation, including information about The Big Bank Switch in your notices/newsletter or including themes of creation care and an ethical use of money in your preaching/teaching. Ideas and resources for action are coming soon.

If you are working towards an Eco Church award, getting involved in the Big Bank Switch could be a great way of making progress in the Lifestyle section of the survey.

How can I find out more about the Big Bank Switch?

Come along and find out more at our upcoming events:

Big Bank Switch workshop

Tuesday 9 April 7.30 - 8.30pm

Join us for an interactive introduction to the Big Bank Switch, explore the world of green banking and find out how you can get involved in the campaign. Register here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErd-usqDsqHNPYc5iMgoJQ5KqGsyhkPWqc>

Open Q&A session

Wednesday 10 April, 7.30 - 8.30pm

Already know about the campaign or have attended a workshop, but have further questions?

Join this informal Q&A and chat to Switch It Green and others involved in the Big Bank Switch.

Register here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvcuuhqD8vHdKDzUi0uJGjxFQxnhqmACFk>

Disclaimer: The Big Bank Switch campaign aims to help Christians explore climate action with their finances through their banking choices. It does not, however, involve the provision of financial advice. If you wish to receive advice, please consult a qualified and independent financial advisor.