



RETROSUBURBIA

THE DOWNSHIFTER'S GUIDE TO A RESILIENT FUTURE

CHAPTER 7: ELECTRICITY

QUESTIONS:

- The easiest way to reduce electricity usage and costs is by behaviour changes – what can you do? See the lists in ‘Managing demand’ (p 126) and ‘Other power options and substitutions’ (p 129) for some starting points. How else could you reduce your need for electricity?
- Do you have solar panels? If so, has this changed your usage and/or your awareness of your electricity use patterns?
- Have changes in electricity prices changed your usage and/or your awareness of your electricity use patterns?
- How does the public discussion, and politician’s promises, affect your perception of power use? How do you think it affects the general community?
- This chapter was written in September 2017 and battery technology changes rapidly. As your group meets, have there been any further developments that might impact the autonomous versus mains power debate?

ACTIVITIES:

- Do an audit of electricity use in your own house or with group members at the house where you are meeting. What electricity uses can be eliminated? What substitutions or other reductions could be made?*
- Do something you would normally do with electricity without it (eg use a hand tool rather than a power tool, use the clothesline instead of a clothes drier, visit a friend rather than emailing them, watch the birds in the garden rather than the TV...) You could even try this for a week... Discuss your experiences with the group.

* Further resources for this activity may be available to registered book clubs

