

# GREEN ECONOMY

Everyone needs money, but there are alternatives to conventional banks, with business strategies more likely to benefit people and the environment.

Move your money UK is a national campaign to spread the message that individuals can help build a better banking system through our buying power [www.moveyourmoney.org.uk](http://www.moveyourmoney.org.uk)

If you bank with Co-operative Bank and want them to keep their ethical principles and return to cooperative ownership see <http://saveourbank.coop>

Credit Unions (set up by any group of people with a 'common bond' eg location, trade or association) offer loans between £50-£3000:

Solent Credit Union <http://solentcreditunion.co.uk> 023 81788375,

United Savings and Loans (Hampshire Credit Union) [www.usal.org.uk](http://www.usal.org.uk) 023 9282 7980

Ecology Building Society (ethical savings, offers discounts on mortgages for green measures/ eco builds) [www.ecology.co.uk](http://www.ecology.co.uk) 01535 650 770

Triodos Bank (only lends to businesses that promote positive change; totally transparent about who it lends to) [www.triodos.co.uk](http://www.triodos.co.uk) 0800 328 2181

Charity Bank (registered charity, lends only to charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises) [www.charitybank.org](http://www.charitybank.org) 01732 774040

Unity Bank (specialist bank for organisations & businesses that aim to create community, social or environmental benefit). <https://www.unity.co.uk/>

## ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS

If you are lucky enough to have savings and want to invest ethically there is a range of options including ethical funds, microfinance, renewable energy projects and social enterprises. See:

[www.ethicalconsumer.org/buyersguides/money/ethicalinvestmentfunds.aspx](http://www.ethicalconsumer.org/buyersguides/money/ethicalinvestmentfunds.aspx)

or look out for local opportunities to invest.



## THE GIFT ECONOMY & OTHER ALTERNATIVES

Initiatives that work outside the money economy are springing up everywhere, with the opportunity to share skills and borrow or swap goods

Streetbank (share tools and skills with your neighbours)

[www.streetbank.com](http://www.streetbank.com)



ChoreSwap (swap chores, skills and services with others) [www.choreswap.com](http://www.choreswap.com)

Timebanks allow people to receive and offer services on an hour by hour basis. Currently there are timebanks in Freemantle & Millbrook (tel 07795 05294) and Woolston (tel 07931 223137) with more planned.

[www.southampton.gov.uk/people-places/community-involvement/time-bank.aspx](http://www.southampton.gov.uk/people-places/community-involvement/time-bank.aspx)

Email [timebank@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:timebank@southampton.gov.uk)

Couchsurfing allows you to stay with locals in every country on earth, to experience the world in a way money can't buy. [www.couchsurfing.org](http://www.couchsurfing.org)

'I need a whisk!!!' network of Southampton friends who lend, borrow and swap all sorts of things when they need them

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/233319516743418/>

Monty's Community Hub, 59 Montague Avenue, Sholing, Southampton, SO19 0QB  
[www.montys.org.uk](http://www.montys.org.uk)

Streetlife: a way to find like minded people and events in your area  
[www.streetlife.com](http://www.streetlife.com)

Some initiatives not currently operating in Southampton:

Greeniversity (skill sharing groups) [www.greeniversity.org.uk](http://www.greeniversity.org.uk)

Local money (only circulates within a specific town or region, helping to reducing the flow of money out of a community via big business) <http://transitionculture.org/shop/local-money-how-to-make-it-happen-in-your-community/>

LETS Local Exchange and Trading Scheme (exchange goods and services without using money) [www.letslinkuk.net](http://www.letslinkuk.net)