

WHAT MORE CAN BE DONE?.....

On the best deal with your supplier ?

It may be that your current supplier has a better tariff that best suits your situation. You will need the following information to compare tariffs:

- 1.The name of your current tariff (on your bill)
2. How much you spent on gas and electricity in the last year. (use bills based on actual meter readings not estimates)
3. How you currently pay (pre-payment meter, on-line credit, direct debit etc)
4. How you would like to pay (direct debit and on-line is often cheaper than pre-payment meter)
5. Decide if you want to change both gas and electricity to one supplier. (Dual fuel deals are often the cheapest options)
6. Your postcode

Finding the best deal

Contact the energy suppliers direct
Talk to an energy supplier's salesperson
Search an accredited internet price comparison site.

Websites compare different prices, show the savings you could make, help you find a better deal, have a free easy to use switching service.

Accredited Comparison sites include:

- www.uswitch.com
- www.energyhelpline.com
- www.fuelswitch.com
- www.moneysupermarket.com
- www.confused.com
- www.simplyswitch.com
- www.whichswitch.co.uk
- www.theenergyswitch.com
- www.ukpower.co.uk
- www.energylinx.co.uk
- www.unravelit.com
- www.switchelectricityandgas.com
- www.myutilitygenius.co.uk

More information, including help with energy bills is available from:

www.ofgem.gov.uk

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk
Or telephone 0300123 1234

www.citizensadvice.org.uk
Or telephone 08444 111 444

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Mid Devon District Council

ENERGY - HINTS & TIPS



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Requests for alternative formats will be considered on an individual basis.

INTRODUCTION

The benefits of saving energy?

- to save money
- to help protect the environment
- to stay warm and healthier
- to maintain and improve your home



An un-insulated home loses a lot of heat. If a property is well insulated it will be warmer, healthier and cost less to heat. In fact you could save hundreds of pounds a year on your fuel bills by installing loft, cavity wall and floor insulation, and by draught proofing around windows and doors.

Making your home more energy efficient by installing insulation will also reduce harmful carbon dioxide emissions that are contributing to global warming.



WHAT MORE CAN BE DONE?.....

12 Energy saving tips

*Turn your thermostat down. Reducing your room temperature by 1°C could cut your heating bills by up to 10%. You could save around £40 per year.

*Is your water too hot? Your cylinder thermostat shouldn't need to be set higher than 60°C/140°F. (But keep it above 55°C to stop legionella growing in the system).

*Invest in a lagging jacket for your hot water tank and insulate your pipes.

*Close your curtains at dusk to stop heat escaping through the windows. Do not drape curtains over the radiators, this will funnel heat straight out of the window.

*Don't leave appliances on standby - turn them off at the plug instead. Standby can use as much as 60% of the electricity that would be used if it was switched on and remember not to leave appliances like phones on charge unnecessarily.

*If you're not filling up the washing machine, tumble dryer or dishwasher, use the half-load or economy programme. Using a 40°C wash cycle rather than 60°C means that you use a third less electricity.

*Only boil a kettle with as much water as you need (but remember to cover the elements if you're using an electric kettle). Cover pots and pans when cooking – they will boil a lot quicker.

WHAT MORE CAN BE DONE?.....

Energy saving tips continued

*Switch to energy saving light bulbs. Just one 20W bulb can save you up to £60 in its lifetime, compared to a 100W standard bulb and they can last up to 15 times longer and always turn off the lights when you leave a room.

*Defrost fridges and freezers regularly to keep them running efficiently. Do not put hot or warm food straight into the fridge and always position your fridge or freezer away from cookers or radiators.

*Shower rather than bath, it uses less energy and water. Repair dripping taps quickly, in just one week enough hot water would be wasted to fill a bath. Always ensure that taps are fully tuned off.

*When purchasing household electrical appliances such as fridges, freezers or washing machines aim to buy A or A+ rated and always look out for the Energy Saving Trust "Recommended" logo.

*Put draught strips around windows and outside doors and put a flap across the letter-box.

