

Hardwick in Partnership Ltd

(Helping you to help yourself)



Saving on your Energy Bills

This Booklet was made possible with funding through



Welcome to

Saving on your Energy Bills

Our sessions will take you through some simple ideas on how you can save money on your energy bills and reduce your carbon footprint at the same time.

This Booklet looks at

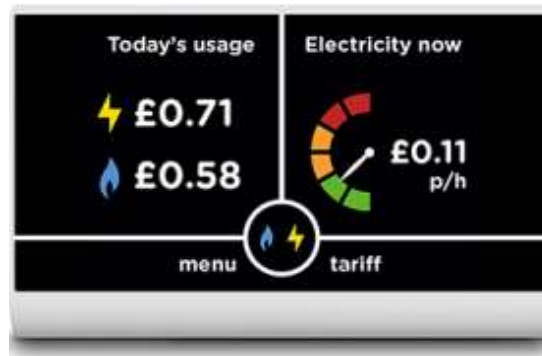
- Smart Meters and their benefits
- Energy Consumption in the home and how to reduce the amount you use without 'feeling the cold'
- Useful website to give you ideas on how to reduce your energy consumption
- Energy saving appliances
- Your energy supplier - Are you getting the best deal
- Where to get help if you are in debt and can't afford to heat your home

Smart Meters and Their Benefits

What are Smart Meters

An Extract from Smart Energy GB Website

A smart meter is the next generation of a gas and electricity meter. They're being installed by energy suppliers in every home in England, Scotland, and Wales. Smart meters come with an in-home display screen that shows you exactly how much energy you're using in pounds and pence, in near real time and will bring an end to estimated bills.



How Do They Work

Smart meters measure how much gas and electricity you're using, as well as what it's costing you, and display this in on a handy in-home display.

With a smart meter, you can wave goodbye to complicated meter readings. The smart meter shows a digital meter reading and automatically sends the reading to your energy supplier at least once a month, so you will receive accurate, not estimated, bills.

How Much Will A Smart Meter Cost Me

Smart Meters are Absolutely Free

The government is committed to having every home in the UK fitted with a smart meter by 2020 therefore everyone will be offered the opportunity to upgrade to a smart meter by their energy supplier.

Smart meters will be provided and fitted by your energy supplier, along with a handheld in-home display, at no extra cost and smart meters will automatically send your meter readings to your energy supplier(s).

Alongside the smart meter you will also receive an in-home display which will show you how much energy you're using in pounds and pence.

What will a Smart Meter Show Me

On an in-home display, you'll be able to read:

- how much energy you're using in near real time
- how much energy was used in the last hour, week, and month (and what it cost)
- whether your electricity use is high, medium or low

If you have a prepay meter, it will also show:

- how much credit you have left
- how much emergency credit you have
- your debt balance (if you have one)
- if your credit's getting low.

Save on Energy Consumption & Save Money

Energy UK has some very good tips and tricks on how you can reduce your energy consumption without feeling the cold

Here is the link to the website :

<http://www.energy-uk.org.uk/customers/save-money-on-energy-bills.html>

- **Just turning down your thermostat by 1 degree** can save you up to 10% on the cost of running your central heating and you won't actually notice the difference.
- Turning off lights when a room is not in use and **fitting new energy saving bulbs** can save you another 10% or more on your energy consumption – typically a 60w old style light bulb can be replaced with a 12w LED bulb can save up to 80% of costs for that particular fitting and the bulbs can last up to 5 times longer than traditional bulbs.
- **Switch off Standby Mode** on your appliances

Uswitch website has a very good article on the use of standby mode and how much energy you can save simply by switching the appliance off - TVs are the biggest consumer of standby energy!

Here is the link to the article

<https://www.uswitch.com/energy-saving/guides/standby-savers/>

Energy Saving Appliances

Most appliances these days carry an energy rating from 'D' to A+++ this indicates how efficient they are at using energy – although replacing a fridge freezer can be expensive if you are thinking of buying a new appliance it is well worth looking at the energy rating

The Energy Saving Trust has a very good video you can watch which explains how you can reduce your energy consumption around the home and save you money by reducing your carbon footprint

Just click on the link to watch the video

<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/home-appliances>

Are you Getting the Best Deal from your Energy Supplier

We have all been subjected to phone calls and knocks on the door from representatives of different energy supplies vying for your business, which can be really annoying as they always seem to arrive at the 'wrong time', but dismissing them out of hand could be a mistake.

The government is trying to bring energy companies into line and standardise energy tariffs to make it easier to understand how much each supplier would cost you for your supply and there are numerous websites that will supply you with information on the cheapest energy company for your needs.

Homes in Stockton can also take advantage of **The Big Community Switch** organised by Stockton Borough Council where they negotiate cheaper energy supplies based on the number of residents who express an interest in changing to a cheaper supplier. Its worth looking into: here is the link to read all about it

<https://www.stockton.gov.uk/news/2017/august/save-money-on-energy-bills-with-the-big-community-switch/>

There are also many price comparison websites you could look at – here are a few links :

Citizens' Advice own comparison website

<https://energycompare.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

<http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/energy/>

<http://switch.which.co.uk/>

<https://www.comparethemarket.com/utilities/>

<https://www.confused.com/gas-electricity>

<http://www.gocompare.com/gas-and-electricity/>

DISCLAIMER: Although there is the possibility of big savings on your bills, we do not endorse any particular website and you would need to make your own decision whether or not to use the advice given in these sites.

Here is a list of household appliances and on average the power it takes to run them

Appliance	Rating		Appliance	Rating
Immersion heater	3000W		Coffee Machine	750-1200W
Electric fire	2000-3000W		Fridge	40-120W
Oil-filled radiator	1500-2500W		Fridge-freezer	200-400W
Electric shower	7000-10,500W		Freeze	150W
Dishwasher	1050-1500W		Electric mower	500-1500W
Washing machine	1200-3000W		Electric drill	900-1000W
Tumble dryer	2000-3000W		Hairdryer	1000W
Iron	1000-1800W		Heating blanket	130-200W
Vacuum cleaner	500-1200W		Plasma TV	280-450W
Towel rail	250W		LCD TV	125-200W
Deep fryer	1200W		Video, DVD or CD	20-60W
Toaster	800-1500W		TV box	30-40W
Kettle	2200-3000W		Games console	45-190W
Microwave	600-1500W		Laptop	20-50W
Oven	2000-2200W		Desktop computer	80-150W
Grill/hob	1000-2000W		Tablet (charge)	10W
Dehumidifier	300-700W		Broadband router	7-10W
Extractor fan	5-36W		Smart phone (charge)	2.5-5W

From the list above you can see that an electric shower, immersion heater, kettle, tumble dryer and washing machine use the most electricity out of our household appliances.

To put the power it takes to run the appliances into perspective, the cost to run the most popular appliances for the average family can be seen here

Appliance		Cost to run per year (Average Family)
Kettle	5p per boil x 3 per day	£55
Light Bulb	0.5p per hour	
Electric Booker	£2.98 per week	£160
Fridge Freezer	30p per day	£110
Dishwasher	12p per wash	£45
Washing Machine	50p per wash	
Tumble Dryer	50p per drying cycle	
Immersion Heater	45p p/hour 3kW heater	
Iron	20p per hr	(Average Family) £5
PC	7p per hr	£24
TV	2p per hr	£70
Broadband Router		£10

Where to Get Help if you are Struggling with Energy Bills

If you are struggling to pay your fuel bills there is help and advice to help you.

Your first step is to **call your energy supplier**, explain the situation and see if there is anything they can do to help your situation.

If this avenue fails then **Citizens' Advice** can provide help and advice and possibly negotiate with the energy supplier on your behalf

Your nearest Citizen' Advice Address

Bath Ln, Stockton-on-Tees TS18 2DS

Telephone Number

01642 633877

And the link to their website is here

<http://www.stockton-cab.co.uk/>



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