

Reducing your fuel bills

- It is usually cheaper to have your gas and electricity with the same supplier and pay by Direct Debit. Pre-payment meters can cost you more!
- Always check your own meter readings and give to your supplier. **Always take meter readings when you move into a new property.**

Save energy! – see www.cse.org.uk for lots of useful ideas and tips.

Social energy tariffs and Warm Home Discount Scheme

All suppliers offer a range of tariffs, including cheaper options for people on some benefits, over pension age, or in **fuel poverty** (low income, high fuel costs). Talk to your provider about this. Ask about the **Warm Home Discount Scheme** if you receive benefits or are vulnerable (e.g. due to health difficulties) - you could get £140 per year.

Trust Funds/Grants

Some suppliers offer grants to help pay off arrears and/or purchase an important item e.g. cooker, washing machine. Ask your provider if they offer this, or try charisgrants.com / 01733 421021 for more information.

Energy Saving Advice Service 0300 123 1234 (Monday-Friday 9am-8pm, Saturday 10am-2pm) A not-for-profit helpline who can give you energy advice and information on grants you may be able to claim.

Winter Fuel Payment Helpline 0345 915 1515

If you are over state pension age you may be entitled to this payment of between £100 and £300 each year. If you do not receive it, phone them for advice.

Switching supplier to get the best deal

You can register for bulk switching with other customers. This is where energy suppliers bid for your custom & you get the best offer. Take a look at:

<https://bigcommunityswitch.ichoosr.com/Product/index.rails?actionId=443>

If you want to find your own deal, you can use one of the Ofgem accredited comparison sites on <http://www.goenergyshopping.co.uk/en-gb/help/comparison-sites>
An example is www.uswitch.com

For more info & advice on energy costs call Poppy Scott on 01903 703185