



centre for  
sustainable  
energy

# Tips for lower energy bills

We want you to be warm and comfortable in your home, but we know that cutting down on costs is important too. Follow our easy tips on using energy economically.

**Turn your heating down by one degree.** You won't notice the difference and could save up to £80 a year. Don't go below 18°C if you are elderly, ill, or have small children.



**Move your furniture away from radiators.** It will be absorbing the heat.



**Keep the heat in.** Close the curtains when it's getting dark and tuck them behind the radiator. Shut the doors to rooms you use most.

**Set your hot water timer.** If you're on Economy 7 make sure your water is heating up at night. An hour a day of on peak water heating adds around £200 to your annual bill.

**Get a hot water cylinder jacket.** A thick insulating jacket can save around £50 on bills a year.

**Turn down radiators in rooms you don't use much.** Use your central thermostat to control overall temperature.



**Get an energy monitor.** Energy monitors show how much energy you are using and which appliances use the most. People monitoring their use in this way typically save £50 a year.

**Turn down your wash.** Washing at lower temperatures will help to reduce the energy used by your washing machine - and it's better for your clothes.



**Dry your clothes outside**

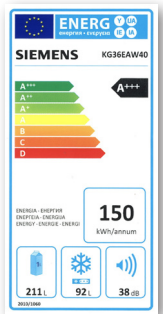
Tumble dryers use a lot of energy and drying your clothes outside will freshen them up.

**Dodge the draught!**

Fit draught excluders to your front door, letter box and key hole to keep cosy.

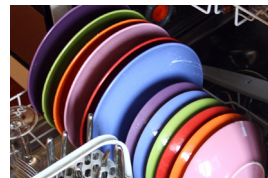
**Buying a new TV, washing machine or dishwasher?**

Look out for the energy efficiency rating, and go for A-rated or better.



**Use LED bulbs.** Each LED you fit can make you a lifetime saving of £180. Plus they don't need changing as frequently.

**Be a friend to your freezer.** Defrost it regularly and keep it as full as you can. A defrosted freezer costs around £150 less a year to run.



**Use your dishwasher.** Doing a full load every other day is more efficient than doing half-loads, and uses less energy than washing up by hand.

**Taking showers instead of baths saves around £100 a year on water heating.**

Electric showers use a lot of energy, so if you have one and want to save you could get a shower timer. Taking 4-minute showers can save you £130 a year.



Check your energy saving knowledge ...

Go to [cse.org.uk/mythbuster](http://cse.org.uk/mythbuster)



Find all our energy advice leaflets at [cse.org.uk/advice-leaflets](http://cse.org.uk/advice-leaflets)



**Keep the lids on saucepans.** You'll be able to turn down the gas or electricity, and save money. And use the right size ring for the saucepan you are using.

**Keep the oven door shut as much as possible when cooking.** Every time you open it you'll lose a quarter of the heat.

**Cuppa tea?** Only fill the kettle with as much as you'll actually use. This will save you up to £20 a year. (make sure you cover the element at the bottom.) And remember, it's cheaper to use the kettle to boil water than an electric hob.



**Make a big batch.** Cook more than one meal at a time and freeze it for another day.



**Zap it!** Use a microwave rather than the oven to reheat meals.

## Get extra help

If you are really struggling with your bills you might be entitled to extra support through some of these schemes:

The **Warm Home Discount** is a rebate on your household electricity bill (it was £140 for the winter of 2016-17). A **Winter Fuel Payment** of between £100 and £300 is available if you were born on or before 5 May 1953. **Cold Weather Payments** are made when the temperature in your area is either recorded or forecast to be an average of 0°C or below for seven consecutive days.

You could get help through the **Energy Company Obligation** to insulate your house. This will make it cheaper to heat.



Contact us if you want more information

And don't forget about switching...

If you haven't switched supplier or energy tariff in a while then you would typically save £200 on your annual bill by switching.

Use one of the Ofgem-accredited comparison services listed on this page of our website:

[www.cse.org.uk/switch](http://www.cse.org.uk/switch)



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Charity: 298740  
Founded: 1979

The Centre for Sustainable Energy is a national charity that helps people change the way they think and act on energy.

Our Home Energy Team offers free advice on domestic energy use in Bristol, Somerset, Wiltshire, South Gloucestershire and Dorset.



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