

ENERGY BILLS & USEFUL ENERGY SAVING IDEAS

Household costs are rising and so we hope that this fact sheet might provide you with some help in coping with energy bills and advice in reducing your energy use.

YOUR BILLS

Ofgem. www.ofgem.gov.uk

OFGEM is Great Britain's independent energy regulator. It is very clear from their website that if anyone is in difficulties with their energy bills that they should contact their supplier as soon as possible. Special measures during this COVID period are still currently in place to protect the uninterrupted supply of your gas and electricity whatever your situation.

The Ofgem web site has extensive help and information if you are worried about your energy payments or use and can point you to other relevant organisations.

Citizens Advice Bureau www.citizensadvice.co.uk

As always the Citizens Advice organisation are an invaluable source of help and support both online, on the phone and in person at your local office.

Telephone

0800 1448848. England

0800 7022020. Wales

0800 0281456. Scotland

Here is some of the information found on their website.

The Warm Home Discount Scheme

You might be eligible for £140 off your electricity bill. This is a one off discount between October 2021 and March 2022. You are eligible if

- you receive the Guarantee Credit element of a Pension Credit
- you are on a low income and meet you energy supplier's criteria

See www.gov.uk Warm Home Discount Scheme for full details or ask your energy supplier.

www.thegamekeeperswelfaretrust.com Email: enquiries@thegamekeeperswelfaretrust.com

Keepers Cottage West Tanfield Ripon North Yorkshire HG4 5LE

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The Winter Fuel Payment

This is an annual payment to help with your heating bill in the winter. This is an automatic payment if you receive a State Pension or receive another social security benefit.

Grants to help pay off energy debts

The following offer grants if you are one of their customers:

- British Gas Energy Trust (This is available to anyone even if you are not one of their customers)
- Scottish Power
- OVO Energy Fund
- E.ON Energy Fund
- EDF Energy Customer Support Fund
- BULB Energy Support Fund

Local Authority Grants

Look on the Simple Energy Advice website (www.simpleenergyadvice.co.uk) or contact their trained advisors who can give telephone advice on their consumer helpline. Telephone 0808 223 1133

Your local council can also access the Household Support Fund if you are part of a vulnerable household.

THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW YOUR ENERGY PROVIDER MAY BE ABLE TO HELP

SCOTTISH POWER. www.community.scottishpower.co.uk

There is a great deal on their website or you can contact them by phone, the number of which is on your bill. Or 0800 027 0072

Scottish Power have a Priority Service Register which supports their most vulnerable customers. It provides free a range of services to help you manage your energy account.

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- you are of pensionable age
- you are disabled or chronically sick
- you have hearing, visual impairment or communication needs

have a special need

- have had a change of circumstances eg bereavement, divorce, unemployment

Scottish Power can also help if your bills are increasing by:

- reviewing monthly payments
- giving longer time to pay
- applying to the Scottish Power Hardship Fund

SAVING ENERGY

The following websites provide quick tips on saving energy in the home:

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

www.uswitch.com (40 ways to reduce your bills)

www.ovoenergy.org.uk (120 ways to save and conserve energy)

www.britishgas.co.uk (20 energy saving tips)

Some simple suggestions are:

- only fill your kettle with the amount of water you need
- always cover your pots and pans whilst cooking
- spend less time in the shower
- use a microwave or slow cooker
- air dry washing instead of using the tumble dryer
- use energy saving lightbulbs
- layer up and wear more jumpers
- wash clothes at 30C

There are lots more!

Ruth Minty (November 2021)

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